MONTHLY EPITOME,

For MAY 1800.

XXXIV. An Account of an Embaffy to the Court of the Telhoo Lama, in Tibet; containing a Narrative of a Journey through Bootan, and Part of Tibet. By Captain Samuel Turner. To which are added, Views taken on the Spot, by Lieutenant Samuel Davis; and Observations botanical, mineralogical, and medical, by Mr. Robert Saunders. 4to. pp. 473. 21. 25. large Paper 31. 35. Nicol.

LIST OF PLATES,

Drawn by Lieutenant Davis, engraved by Bafire.

- 1. SURVEY of the Road from Buxadewar to Tassifudon in Bootan; and from Tassifudon to Teshoo Loomboo, in Tibet.
 - 2. View of Buxadewar.
- 3. The Cascade of Menzapeezo.
- 4. Plan, Section, and Elevation of the Bridge of Chains at Chuka.
- 5. Chuka.

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- The Valley near Taffifudon, with a Procession of the Religious to their Ablutions.
- 7. The Palace of Taffifudon.
- . 8. The Residence of Lam' Ghassatoo.
- 9. The Caftle of Wandipore.
- 10. The Palace of Punukka.
- 11. The Yak of Tartary, from a Picture by Stubbs.
- 12. The Mansoleum of Teshoo Lama.
- 13. The Dwelling of Teffaling Lama, with the religious Edifice flyled

Kugopea. Vol. IV.—No. XXXV. Specimens of the Umir, and of the Uchen Characters, in the Language of Tibet.

CONTENTS.

PART I.

CHAP. I. Leave Calcutta-Moorshedabad -- Rungpore -- Tuffoon, or tremendous Hurricane-Bungalo-Wild Elephants-Inroads of the Moguls into Affam .-- II. Buxadewar-Noxious Quality of the Atmosphere-Fatal to Captain Jones. &c .- Tangun Horfe, peculiar to thefe Mountains-Visit the Soobah-Defcription of a religious Ceremony-Mode of travelling in Bootan .-III. Prodigious Altitude of Peachukom Mountains-Pipes conducting Water for the Accommodation of Travellers-Teezpaut, a Species of Cinnamon-Ingenious Method of constructing Roads along the Sides of Precipices-Peculiar Way of paffing deep Ravines-Chain Bridge and Caftle of Chuka-Mudwallahs for the Defence of Hill Fortreffes .- IV. Arrival at the Palace of Taffiludon-Peculiar Mode of preparing Tea-A Bootan Repast—Order of Gylongs -Rules of the Society .- V. A numerous Establishment of Gylongs, and a Temple of Worship-Ancient Site of Taffifudon-Brahmennee, or facred Bull-Paper Manufactory .-VI. Commotions excited by a .degraded Chief, &c .- Weak Condition of the Capital-The Rebels defeated -Military

-Military Character of the Booteeas -Use of Poison-Wandipore invefted .- VII. Faculty of prolonging the Sound of wind Instruments-Tradition concerning the Caftle of Wandipore-Structure of the Bridge light and beautiful-Mineral Springs -Curious Effects of a strong Current of Wind-Palace of Punukka-Expenfive Decorations-Laborious Services imposed upon the Female Sex -Narrainee-Ultimate Defeat of the Rebels.-VIII. Return to Taffisudon-Visit the Raja-a Buffoon -Electrical Machine-Fatal Accident to our Camp Equipage-Marvellous Stories of the Raja-Of a gigantic Race of Men-Of People with Tails-Unicorns-Temple of Wandeechy-Bull-fights-The great autumnal Festival of the Hindoos.

PART II.

Chap. I. Leave Taffifudon-Crofs the Summit of Pomœla-Tibetian Cuftom of taking Tea-Gross Superstition of the Mountaineers -- The Yak of Tartary .- II. Boundaries between Bootan and Tibet-Cold Temperature of the Air-Numerous Herds-Ferocity of the Dogs of Tibet .-- III. Fatal Effects of the Small Pox—Huge Idol-Woollen Manufactory-Monattery of Teshoo Loomboo .- IV. Congratulations from the Regent and Soopoon Choomboo-Hall of Audience-Lama's Throne-Person and Manner of the Regent-Removal of the Lama from Kylee to Terpaling -Homage paid him on the Way.-V. Interior of the Monastery-Solemn and mysterious Ceremonies-Maufoleum of the late Teshoo Lama. VI. Bengal endeared to the Tibetians by religious Prejudices-Confluence of the Ganges with the Sea -Performance of Pilgrimage by Proxy-Pranpoore; his extraordinary Course of Mortifications-Intercourse between Russia and China -No Tradition extant of an ancient People inhabiting towards the North -Inference drawn from the Similarity of the Sanscrit and Tibet Alphabet-Science of Palmistry .- VII. Use of the Symbol of the Lion in

Tibet and Egypt-Benares esteemed the facred Seat of all human Learning-Teshoo Loomboo-Cashmeer -Berhampooter-Seasons in Tibet -Value of Sheep.-VIII. Religion of Tibet-Noise and Pomp of their religious Ceremonies-Festival in honour of the Dead-Calendar of Time-Art of Printing .- IX. Prepare to leave Teshoo Loomboo-Interview with Teshoo Lama-Memory of the late Lama venerated-Repast, raw Meat-Music-Calmuc Tartars.—X. Quit the Monastery of Terpaling—Polyandry—Influence on the Manners of the People-Tendency to check the too great Increase of Population, and prevent the inhuman Practice known to prevail in China-Marriage Ceremonies-Lake Ramtchieu—Skaiting—Intense Severity of the Frost-Shawl Goats-Rungpore.

PART III.

Report delivered to the Hon. Warren Haftings, Efq. Governor-general of Bengal, upon the Refult of my Miffion to the Court of Teshoo Loomboo—A List of the usual Articles of Commerce between Tibet and the surrounding Countries.

PART IV.

t e i da ge e i t c f c f r r t Ha c f a t

Some Account of the vegetable and mineral Productions of Bootan and Tibet.

PART V.

Letter addressed to the Hon. John Macpherson, Esq. Governor-general of Bengal, containing some Particulars relating to the Journey of Poorunghers to Teshoo Loomboo; the Inauguration of Teshoo Lama; and the State of Tibet from 1783 to 1785.

PART VI.

Some Account of the Situation of Affairs in Tibet, from 1785 to 1793.

APPENDIX.

No. I. Translation of a Letter from Kienlong, Emperor of China, to Dalai Lama, the Grand Lama of Tibet.—II. Translation of a Letter from Changoo Coofhoo Punjun Irtinnee Neimoneim, Regent of Teshoo Loomboo, to Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor-general, &c. &c.—III. Translation of a Letter from Soopoon Choomboo Mirkin Chassa Lama, Minister to the late Teshoo Lama, to Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor-general, &c.—IV. Narrative of the Particulars of the Journey of Teshoo Lama and his Suite, from Tibet to China; from the verbal Report of Poorungheer Goseen.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE INTRODUC-TION.

" IT is not known that any direct communication existed between Bengal and Tibet * before the year 1774. A phytical reason might be assigned for this, in the enormous height, and vaft extent, of the mountains which are interposed between the two countries, did not an almost equal degree of frangeness, prevailing between Ben-gal and Bootan, which lie adjacent to each other, necessarily imply a different, or at least some concurrent cause. The most probable one, which the history of little more than a century can afford us, is to be found in that spirit of conquest which forms the common character of all Mahometan flates, and in that hostility which their religion enjoins against all who are not its professors. The Booteeas, who, though a ftrong and hardy race of people, are little verfed in the arts of war, and thinly feattered over a mountainous region, derive from their local fituation the only means of defence against invaders; an advantage which they would inevitably lofe, if they were to allow a free passage through their territories. It is certain, however, that, at this time, a Grong jealoufy of all intercourse with the inhabitants of Hindostan, prevails univerfally among the natives on its northern frontier. From Bootan, indeed, a caravan now annually visits the district of Rungpore, in Bengal, bringing with it oranges, walnuts, and the coarfe woollen manufactures of that country, with the horfes that carry them, for lale; and it returns, after a month's

flay, with the cotton cloths, falt, and other articles, of the produce of Bengal. But the same privilege has never been allowed by the government of Bootan to the inhabitants of Bengal. Perhaps a people more enterprising than the latter, might have contrived to overcome this difficulty, fince fome individuals of the religious orders occasionally find their way both into Bootan and Tibet. One of thefe, named Poorungheer, accompanied the first deputation from Tibet to Bengal, in the year 17"3, and afterwards attended the Lama on his visit to Pekin. Something, therefore, co-operating with the political cause above asfigned, to produce the fame effect, may have arisen from the difference of manners, and of atmosphere, of the two countries. It is not possible to conceive a greater diffimilarity between the most remote inhabitants of the globe, than that which diffinguishes the feeble-bodied and meek-spirited natives of Bengal, and their active and Herculean neighbours, the mountaineers of Bootan. Their religion, which might be supposed to have a powerful influence on their manners, has totally failed of producing fimilar effects on the two nations, though it is evidently drawn from the fame fource. The province of Bootan is, from its elevation, fo cold, that few of its fouthern neighbours could endure its feverity; while its natives, clad in woollens, and little accustomed to the purifications which prevail for universally among the former, suffer-nearly as much from the sultry and humid atmosphere of Bengal, Nor do the two countries differ less in salubrity. To the same cause, therefore, may be afcribed the difference in the bodily construction of the two people, and in their moral character, which is, in a great degree, the refult of that construction.

"The mountains of Bootan form a part of the great chain, which geographers call by the general appellation of Mons Imaus, and of which frequent mention is made in the mythological histories of the Brahmens, by the term of Himâloya. At their teet, a wide and extensive plain, covered with woods, and funk in morasses, forms

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^{* &}quot;This name in Bengal, as well as Tibet, is pronounced with a duplication of the letter b; but out of respect to long-established orthography, I have written it according to the more usual mode of spelling it in Europe."

a natural division between Bengal and Bootan, being nearly unfit for the fupport of human life, and almost entirely destitute of inhabitants. Yet, in the year 1772, the Raja of Bootan, with what plea, or from what provocation, I have not been able to learn, laid claim to the district of Cooch Bahar, which adjoins to it on the fide of Bengal; and, meeting with little relistance from the natives, rapidly gained pof-fession of it. This appears to have been the first instance of hostility between the two countries; and it had proceeded to its last extremity, before the government of Bengal, which had hitherto derived no benefit from the contested territory, was well apprized of what had befallen it. The example, however, was dangerous, and a detachment of native infantry, gradually augmented from a few companies to two battalions, was fent to dispossels the invaders, and drive them back to their own frontier.

"The military weapons of the Booteeas are the bow and arrow, a fhort ftraight fword, and a faulchion, reflected like a pruning-knife. Thefe, though wielded by strong hands, and directed by much individual courage, were of little avail against the discipline, artillery, and musketry of their antagonists, who experienced a much more destructive foe in the pestiferous region through which they continued their pursuit, after having driven the Booteeas from the scene of contention into their own confines. There the Raja, weary of the conflict, and alarmed for their own confines. the fafety of his own dominions, applied to Teshoo Lama, and obtained his mediation for a peace." P. iii.

The Regent Telhoo Lama, at the entreaty of the Raja, fent a deputation to Calcutta, with a letter addreffed to the Governor, who, without hesitation, yielded to the intercesfion of the Lama. This occurrence affording an opportunity of extending the British connexion, and of opening new fources of commerce, an English gentleman, Mr. George Bogle, was, in May 1774, fent on a mission to the Lama, and received with great kindness: In 1779, the Lama, yielding to the repeated folicitations of the Emperor of China, vilited Pekin: being defirous of improving his connexion with the government of Bengal, he obtained the Emperor's permission for Mr. Bogle to join him at the capital.

Unfortunately the death of that gentle, man, and of the Lama, which happened nearly at the fame time, completely frustrated every expectation which had been formed.

"The foul of the late Lama, according to the doctrines of their faith, having paffed into, and animated the body of an infant, who, on the discovery of his identity, by such testimonies as their religion prescribes, was acknowledged and proclaimed by the same title and appellation as his prede-

ceffor.

"Mr. Hastings, upon the receipt of these accounts, proposed to the Board to send a second deputation to Tibet. He did me the honour to recommend me for this service, to which I was accordingly nominated on the 9th of

January 1783.

"On my return, I delivered to Mr. Haftings, whom I met at Pana, a Report on the refult of my mission, which was transmitted by him to the Board, and also a hasty Narrative of my interview with the young Lama; which latter was, by their order, sent to the Asiatic Society, to be inserted

in their Researches.

"This I at that time confidered as the final refult of my mission, and the only part of it which appeared to merit any public or official notice. Nevertheless, as I had carefully committed to writing, upon the fpot, every thing remarkable, which occurred to me in the course of my employment on this extraordinary fervice, I have, fince my return to England, been induced to flatter myfelf, that my Journal might not be deemed altogether unworthy of the public curiofity. The trite plea of the importunity of friends, would naturally fuggest to me the ridicule which has fo often and fo juftly been cast upon it, if I had not, in the lateness of the publication, an evidence to acquit me, at least of too great forwardness to obtrude myfelf on the public notice. I have exceeded the rule laid down by Horace, of nonum prematur in annum, if it may be construed to extend to compositions of this nature. I may also, without presumption, venture to hope, that, however incompetent I may be to embellish my narrative with the dress best fitted for it to appear in, yet the novelty and curiofity of the subject will, in some degree, compensate for my own deficiencies, as an author,

of which I cannot possibly be unconficious." P. xvii.

EXTRACTS.

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" AFTER dinner, in the way of conversation, I mentioned that we were defirous of going to the top of an adjacent hill, towards which I pointed, and asked him if there was any road. He observed to me, that it was a confecrated place, and that he would choose, by all means, to accompany us. I tole him, that as I understood him to have been lately ill, I was apprehensive the walk we proposed to take would fatigue him too much, and begged, therefore, he would not trouble himfelf to accompany us. His anfwer was equally polite and attentive; nor could we diffuade him from efcorting us, and he accordingly went home

to make fome preparations.

" I was told, that it was a custom with the Soobah to ascend this hill every month, when he fets up a white flag, and performs some religious ceremonies to conciliate the favour of a Dewta, or invisible being, the genius of the place, who is faid to hover about the fummit, difpenfing at his will, good and evil to every thing around him. I was advised to fet up a flag also; and I did not think it prudent to give offence by refusing to comply with their customs, however abfurd or ridiculous. In half an hour the found of the nowbut * and the trumpet announced the Soobah's re-He came furrounded with a numerous crowd, clad in various coloured habits, and we walked together to the bottom of the stone slope, oppofite to his house, where we mounted our horses. When the party was arranged in regular order, the cavalcade was by no means contemptible. In front were carried, on bamboo poles, five white flags; two flaves immediately followed, on which were faftened shreds of silk of various colours, blue, red, yellow, and white, in alternate rows from the top to a foot and a half downward: the bearers kept constantly twirling these in their hands. Seven young girls with loofe hair went

next, chanting, in a fort of religious tone, as we advanced: they were led with a flow and folemn pace by the Lama, or chief priest, in a deep-crowned cap of clotted wool, and a scarlet veft, riding on a Tangun horfe. Zeenkaubs followed, and immediately after came the Soobah, dreffed in a vest of blue satin, with gold embroidery, and a garnet-coloured shawl, one end of which paffing under his right arm, was thrown negligently with the other over the left shoulder. crown of his hat was shaped after the European fashion, and the brims were three or four inches broad. The top of the hat was decorated with a creft of yellow metal, which in shape bore fome refemblance to a leaf. After him rode two priefts, with caps fimilar to those of the Lama; I followed next. with Mr. Saunders, and a number of attendants: Mr. Davis was lame, and could not go.

"The road was very fleep and narrow, and our horses were frequently obliged to halt to recover their wind. as well as to relax the tone of their muscles; for it was with the greatest exertion that they fcrambled up. When we gained the fummit, the girls, who had preceded us, were drawn up in a row, and fung to us after their manner, as we passed them, marking the time by a flow movement of the hands and feet, which I confidered as a folemn dance, in strict unison with the monotony of their mu-The whole variety of their motions confifted in alternately refting on each foot, as they advanced one before the other; their hands being railed about as high as the shoulder, and placed a little before them, were perpetually turned with a circular kind of motion that reverfed their backs and palms. On the top of the hill, we found a small level spot, which fituation feems to be always preferred for the scene of their devotions. Here, against a large tree, was placed a kind of altar, elevated about three feet from the ground: the back and two narrow sides were covered with yellow silk, and on the back hung four handkerchiefs, red, blue, yellow, and white; a white handkerchief, fastened on one fide, was fuspended in front, and falling in an easy festoon near the top,

[&]quot; A kind of kettle-drum, used only as an appendage of state by persons in authority."

was sustained by another on the opposite side. There were three lamps burning upon the altar, with slowers and fruits in plates. Before the altar were six persons, arranged in a row, and in the following order: on the left of the whole stood the Lama; next a priest, who beat on a large tabor, with a long curved iron instead of a stick; a priest with cymbals; a priest with a tabor; and a priest blowing an instrument made of the shinbone of a man: on the right-hand side

food two trumpeters.

"We were presented with a lighted rod of the perfumed composition, which we held in our hands. A cupfull of rice was brought to us, with one of the lighted rods fluck upright in it: we touched the rice, as did the Soobah also, and it was then placed upon the altar. The Soobah stood on the left fide of the altar; we were opposite to him, on a rising ground. The ceremony began with the chanting of the prieft; the tabors, trumpets, and cymbals, all founding: this was continued with foort intermissions, and but little variation, for ten minutes, when the instruments ceased, and some prayers were repeated with a deep and hollow tone: a thort filence afterwards enfued. The Soobah tied a white cloth before his face, covering his mouth and nostrils, and a vessel of water was brought to him, in which he washed his hands. A white pelong handkerchief was then prefented, one end of which we held as we approached the altar, a priest holding the other: we released it, and it was waved over the fmoke of the lighted rods. The prayers continued; fome rice was fcattered about by the priests, and the pelong handkerchief was then fastened on a flaff. The Soobah had now come over to the fide on which we flood: fome cowry shells * intermixed with rice were brought; the flags were all fixed, and the confecrated rice and fruits that stood upon the altar were thrown down, and eagerly gathered up by the poorer spectators. The Soobah had a quantity of the rice and fhells, fome of which were given to us; and we, following his example, every now and then fcattered it about, while the performers were chanting and founding their inftruments. When the whole was distributed, the priest stopped and drank rea: a plate of Jack fruit was brought to the Soobah, which he touched and tasted; we did the same, and then the whole was divided among the priests and performers: the girls now advanced, dancing, and the ceremony was ended with loud acclamations.

" We turned and descended the hill on foot (as the declivity was too fleep for us to ride), in the midst of loud thricks and thouts. We found, on our return, a large mat foread before the Soobah's house, with a bench placed in the middle of it; and we went and stood upon the mat, while the priests chanted some prayers. A paper, containing shells and rice, was put into the Soobah's hand, fome of which he gave me, and we scattered them about: the cowries were quickly collected by the girls. A large veffel of liquor was before us: a ladle-full of it was brought to the Soobah: he touched it; I did the fame; and it was afterwards distributed among the people. We then adjourned to the Soobah's apartment, drank tea and liquors, and were presented with fruits

and provisions.
"The Soobah told me, that this religious ceremony had been performed because we were just arrived in Bootan; and it was proper to invoke their deity to grant us protection, and a prosperous journey through their country, that we might return in safety to our own. This was a duty, he faid, which they owed to the English Company, and the Dacb would be pleased to know that it had been performed. They were happy, he added, that we had joined in this act of devotion; and it was his with that on our return we might revisit this abode, and again perform together the fame ceremonies. We then took leave, and retired to our tents." P. 30.

CURIOUS ETYMOLOGY OF BUXA-

"BUXADEWAR, as it is termed by the people in the low-lands, derives its name from a very whimfical circumstance. It was formerly a cus-

" Jack fruit, Artocarpus integrifolia, Linn. Kuttul, Ind.

[&]quot; "Porcellana, Linnai, found among the Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, and current in Hindostan and Bengal as money."

tom with the Bootan horse-dealers, before they quitted this pass of the mountains, and descended with their caravan into the low lands, to cut off the tails of their Tangun horfes almost close to the rump, which greatly diffigured their appearance, and depreciated their value. When the English established a fixed station at Rungpore (the mart of Bootan commerce), disgusted at this cruel treatment, they interested themselves with the dealers to obtain a discontinuance of the practice, offering bucksbish, that is, a liberal reward, if they would permit the poor animals to keep their tails. They liftened with extreme unwillingness to a proposal that militated against immemorial usage, for which, however, they had no better argument to advance, than the truly Asiatic plea against all forts of innovation; 'it was the duftoor,' or custom: but the love of money being fuperior to the force of prejudice, at the enfuing feafon, fome of the horses made their appearance at the fair unmutilated. found fo quick a fale, and gained fo high a price, that the fame dealers were induced the following year to repeat the experiment, and with fimilar fuccess. They who were anxious for a good market, foon found it their interest to follow the example; and thus at length that cruel custom was totally abolified, which deprived a noble animal of a member no less useful than ornamental; and ever fince that time Tangun horses have been permitted to descend by this pass, without the loss of their tails. Hence it was flyled Buxadewar, the bounteous pass, and the com-mandant of the post, Buxa Soobah; but otherwise, in the Bootan language, it is named Passaka, and Passa Gea-tong. Thus I take my leave of etymologies." P. 40.

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PAPER MANUFACTORY AT TAS-SISUDON.

"IN our perambulations down the valley, I often refted at the place where the chief manufacture of paper is established, which was made, I found, by a very easy and unexpensive process, of the bark of a tree, here called Deah, which grows in great abundance upon the mountains near Tallistudon, but is not produced on those immediately bordering on Bengal. The method of preparing this

material, as well as I could learn, is as follows: When a sufficient quantity of bark is collected to employ the labourer, it is divided into finall threds. and steeped and boiled in a lixivium of wood ashes; it is then taken up, and laid in a heap to drain; after which it is beaten upon a stone, with a wooden mallet, until it is reduced to an impalpable pulp; it is then thrown into a refervoir of water, where, being well stirred about, and cleanfed from the coarfe and dirty part, which floats upon the furface, it is still further depurated in another large refervoir of clean water. When the preparation is complete, the parts are finely broken, and that which finks in the water, appears mucilaginous to the touch. All that now remains is to form it into sheets, which is done upon fmall reeds fet in frames. labourer dips the frame in the water. and raifes up a quantity of the pulp, which, by moving the frame in the water, he fpreads, until it entirely and equally covers the furface of the reeds; he then raifes the frame perpendicularly, the water drains off, and the frame is hung up till the sheet is nearly dry: it is then taken off, and fufpended upon lines. The paper thus prepared is of a much stronger texture than that of any other country with which I am acquainted, as it is capable of being woven, when gilt by way of ornament, into the texture of filk and fatins, to which use I have seen it frequently applied in the manufactures of China." P. 99.

(To be continued.)

XXXV. The Critical and Miscellaneous Works of John Dryden, now first collected: with Notes and Illustrations; an Account of the Life and Writings of the Author, grounded on original and authentic Documents; and a Collection of his Letters, the greater Part of which has never before been published. By EDMOND MALONE, Esq. 4 vols, Svo. pp. 2149-21. 2s. Fine Paper 31. 3s. Cadell and Davies.

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CONTENTS.

VOL. I .- PART I.

ADVERTISEMENT—Life of Dryden—Appendix to the Life—Numb. I. Dryden's Patent.—II. Contract concerning the Fables, &c.—III. Ruffel's Bill of Charges for his Funeral—IV. Epitaph in l'ichmarsh Church, on Dryden and his Ancestors.—V. List of Persons in whose Cabinets Letters written by Dryden probably may be found.

VOL. I .- PART II.

Forty-five Letters to feveral Perfons, viz. Madam Honor Dryden-John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester-Rev. Dr. Bufby-Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester-Jacob Tonson-The Author's Sons-Mr. and Mrs. Steward-Samuel Pepys, Efq.-Right Hon. Charles Montague-Mrs. Eliza Thomas, Jun.—Additions and Emen-dations—Prolegomena—Dedication of the Rival Ladies to Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery-Preface to Sir Robert Howard's Plays—Dedication of the Essay of Dramatic Poefy to Charles, Lord Buckhurst-Fffay of Dramatic Poefy-Defence of the Effay of Dramatic Poefy-Preface to the Mock Aftrologer-Effay of Heroic Plays-Defence of the Epilogue to the Second Part of the Conquest of Granada—The Grounds of Criticism in Tragedy-Heads of an Answer to Rymer's Treatife on the Tragedies of the last Age-Preface to the Wild Gallant-Dedication of the Indian Emperor to Anne Scott, Dutchess of Monmouth-Preface to Secret Love. or the Maiden Queen-Preface to the Tempest-Dedication of the Mock Aftrologer to William Cavendifh, Duke of Newcastle-Dedication of Tyrannic Love, or the Royal Martyr, to James, Duke of Monmouth-Preface to the same Play-Dedication of the First Part of the Conquest of Granada to James, Duke of York-Dedication of Marriage A-la-Mode to John Wilmot, Earl

of Rochester—Dedication of the Affignation to Sir Charles Sidley, Baronet—Dedication of Amboyna to Thomas, Loud Clifford of Chudleight—Dedication of the State of Innocence to Mary of Este, Dutchess of York—Presace to the State of Innocence—Dedication of Aureng-Zebe to John Shessield, Earl of Muigrave.

VOL. II.

DEDICATION of All for Love to Thomas Ofborne, Earl of Danby-Preface to All for Love-Dedication of Limberham to John, Lord Vaughan -Preface to Oedipus-Dedication of Troilus and Cressida to Robert Spencer, Earl of Sunderland-Dedication of the Spanish Friar to John Holles, Lord Houghton-Dedication of the Duke of Guife to Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochefter-Vindication of the Duke of Guife-Preface to Albion and Albanius-Dedication of Don Sebastian to Philip Sydney, Earl of Leicester-Preface to Don Sebastian-Dedication of Amphitryon to Sir William Levelon Gower, Baronet-Dedication of King Arthur to George Saville, Marquis of Halifax -Dedication of Cleomenes to Laurence Hyde, Earl of Rochester-Preface to Cleomenes-Dedication of Love Triumphant to James Cecil, Earl of Salisbury-Preface to the Husband his own Cuckold—Dedication of Annus Mirabilis to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London-Account of Annus Mirabilis, addressed to Sir Robert Howard-Preface to the Remarks on the Empress of Morocco-Extract from the Remarks -Preface to Abfalom and Achitophel-Dedication of the Medal to the Whigs-Preface to Religio Laici —Dedication of Plutarch's Lives to James Butler, the first Duke of Ormond-The Life of Plutarch-Dedication of the History of the League to King Charles II .- Poftscript to the History of the League-Defence of Anne Hyde, Dutchess of York-Preface to the Hind and the Panther -Dedication of the Life of St. Francis Xavier.

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PREFACE to the Translation of Ovid's Epiftles-Preface to the Second Miscellany-Preface to Walsh's Dialogue concerning Women-Dedication of Eleonora to James Bertie, Earl of Abington-Character of St. Evremont-Discourse on the Origin and Progress of Satire, addressed to Charles Sackville, Earl of Dorfet-Character of Polybius-Dedication of the Third Miscellany to Francis Radcliffe, Lord Radcliffe-A Parallel of Poetry and Painting-The Life of Lucian-Dedication of Virgil's Pastorals to Hugh, Lord Clifford-Dedication of the Georgics of Virgil to Philip Stanhope, the fecond Earl of Chesterfield-Difcourse on Epic Poetry; addressed to John Sheffield, Marquis of Normanby—Postscript to the Translation of Virgil-Dedication of Fables, Ancient and Modern, to James Butler, the fecond Duke of Ormond-Preface to the Fables.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ADVERTISE-

" THE great author of the following works has long had the honour of being ranked in the first class of English Poets; for to the names of Shakspeare, Spencer, and Milton, we have now for near a century been in the habit of annexing those of Dryden, and his scholar, Pope. The present publication will flow, that he is equally entitled to our admiration as a writer of profe; and that among his various merits, that of having cultivated, refined, and improved our language, is not the leaft. In making, therefore, this collection of his Critical and Mifcellaneous Essays, which are found dispersed in a great variety of books, many of them now not easily to be procured, I trust that, while I have done an acceptable fervice to good letters and to the public, I have at the fame time in some degree contributed to the fame of the author; a confiderable portion of whose valuable writings will thus become accessible and familiar to a more numerous class of readers than the votaries of the Muses, and whose reputation, high as it is at present, will consequently be Vol. IV .- No. XXXV.

extended to a fill wider circle than that within which it has hitherto been confined." P. i.

" Of Dryden's Letters, very few of which have ever been printed, I wished to form as ample a collection as could be procured; and am highly indebted to William Baker, Efq. Representative in Parliament for the county of Hertford, who most obligingly has furnished me with all the correspondence, now extant, which paffed between our author and his bookseller, Jacob Tonfon, from whom these papers descended to that gentleman: which, befide exhibiting a lively portrait of this great poet, contain fome curious documents respecting the price of his works, and fome other interesting particulars concerning them. To this feries I have added a letter written in his youth to Mrs. Honor Dryden, from the original in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Blakeway, of Shrewfbury; a letter to John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, from a manuscript copy in the Museum; one to Samuel Pepys, Efq. from the original in the Pepyfian Collection in Magdalene College, Cambridge; one to Charles Montague, afterwards Earl of Halifax, from the original in my possession; and fixteen letters addressed, at a late period of life, to his kinfwoman, Mrs. Steward, or her huf-band; which have been obligingly communicated to me by her grand-daughter, Mrs. Gwillim, of Whitchurch, near Rofs, in Herefordshire, by the hands of Mrs. Ord, of Queen Anne Street. Some others have been found fcattered in miscellaneous volumes; and many more, I have no doubt, are in the possession of various persons, which might easily be discovered, if they would but fearch their

family papers." P. iii.
"The profe of Dryden has been fo long and to justly admired for its copioufness, harmony, richness, and variety, that to adduce any testimony in its favour feems unnecessary. To the high eulogy of Congreve on this head, and the printed encomiums of Dr. Warton, Mr. Mason, and Dr. Beattie, I may, however, add the authority of the late Mr. Burke, who had very diligently read all his miscellaneous Esfays, which he held in high estimation, not only for the inftruction which they contain, but on account of the rich and numerous profe in which that instruction is conveyed. On the lan-

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ruage of Dryden, on which, perhaps, his own ftyle was originally in fome measure formed, I have often heard him expatiate with great admiration; and if the works of Burke be examined with this view, he will, I believe, be found more nearly to refemble this great author than any other English writer." P. vi,

EXTRACTS FROM THE LIFE.

"OUR author received the first rudiments of learning at Tichmarsh, Northamptonshire, and probably was indebted for part of his education to the school at Oundle, in the same county; from one or the other of which places he was removed to Westminster school, where he was admitted a King's scholar, but at what age I have not been able to ascertain; probably, however, about the time of the civil war's breaking out, when he was near eleven years old. After remaining fome years at that excellent feminary, of which the celebrated Dr. Bufby had been appointed master in 1638, he was elected to one of the scholarships of Trinity College, in Cambridge, where he was admitted, May 11th, 1650, under the tuition of the Rev. Mr. Templer, and was matriculated on the 6th of July following.

"At this early period he commenced poet, not only by the Elegy on the death of Lord Hastings (1649), mentioned by all his biographers, but by commendatory verses prefixed to the Poems of John Hoddesdon, in 1650; neither of which afforded any indication of that genius by which he was afterwards so highly distinguished.

"Of his school performances we only know, that he translated the third fatire of Persius, for a Thursday-night's exercise imposed by his master, whose high opinion of his talents is strongly evinced by prescribing such a task; and he has himself told us, that he believed it and many other exercises of this nature were, in 1693, in

the hands of Dr. Bufby; but whither they have fince wandered, I have not been able to learn.

"The only notice I have been able to recover concerning his early college days, is the following order, which was made about two years after his admillion:

that Dryden be put out of Comons, for a forthnight at least, and that he goe not out of the colledg, during the time aforesaid, excepting to seromons, without express leave from the Master or Vice-master; and that at the end of the forthnight he read a confession of his crime in the hall at dinner-time, at the three ---- sel-

" 'His crime was, his disobedience to the Vice-master, and his contumacy in taking his punishment inflicted by him,'

"What degree of reputation he obtained in his academic courfe, it is now extremely difficult, if not impoffible, to ascertain. It has been mentioned as extraordinary, that his name is not found in any of the Cambridge Verses composed in his time on public occasions; that he took no degree in the university; and that he did not obtain a fellowship in his college. From whatever cause it may have proceeded, he certainly was not a fellow: but one of the other subjects of surprife has not been accurately stated; for he took the degree of Bachelor at the regular time, in January 1653-4, and in 1657 was made Master of Arts, though in the university Register, owing perhaps to the irregularity of that turbulent time, his name is unaccountably omitted.

"The only general collection of either gay or lugubrious verse, that was iffued out by the university of Cambridge during the unfortunate and difgraceful period of Dryden's being a member of it, appeared in 1654, under the title of Oliva Pacis*, &c. in honour of the peace concluded be-

Reipub. Angliæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Dominum Protectorem, de Pace cum fæderatis Belgis feliciter fancita, Carmen Cantabrigiense. 4to. 1654. On the death of the Usurper, the Cantabrigians hailed his son, Richard, in a second collection (now extremely scarce), entitled, Musarum Cantabrigiensium Luctus et Gratulatio: ille in surremely scarce), entitled, Musarum Cantabrigiensium Luctus et Gratulatio: ille in surremely scarce, et Hiberniæ, Protectoris; hæe de Ricardi successione felicissima ad eundem. 4to. 1658. As an adopted son, I am proud to add, that the university of Oxford escaped this

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tween England and Holland on the 15th of April, and ratified May 2d of that year. To this volume he might naturally be expected to have been a contributor, being then of four years' standing in the university, having already commenced a poet, and one of his near relations being intimately connected with Cromwell: and here, doubtlefs, among the fanatic fongsters of Trinity College his name would have been found, but for an event which happened at this time, and in all likelihood detached him from the university for some months. In June 1654, his father, who was then, I conjecture, about fixty-fix years old, died +, and on the 18th of that month was buried at Tichmarsh. By his illness our author was probably called away from Cambridge, in May, at the very time when his contemporary gownsmen began to 'build the lofty 'rhyme;' and their incenfe, it may be prefumed, was prefented to the Ufurper in August or September, before our author's return. The settlement of his father's affairs, and the-attention

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due to his mother and her very numerous family, must have occupied him wholly from June till after the commencement of the long vacation; and as at that feafon all who can, usually leave the university, his residence at Tichmarsh was probably protracted to the following October, when his gratulations, however ardent or harmonious, could have found no place in the academic anthology."

Vol. i. p. 12.

" In the year 1673 he produced the tragedy of Amboyna, which, he fays, was written in hafte, but with an English heart, for the temporary purpose of inflaming the nation against the Dutch, with whom we were then at war. The greater part of this piece, which was entered in the Stationers' Register, June 26, 1673, and published soon afterwards, is written in profe; and what is not profe is blank verse. Though 'contrived and writ-'ten in a month' (as the author tells us), 'the subject barren, the persons · low, and the writing not heightened with many laboured fcenes,

last difgrace; but in 1654 she was not less obsequious to ill-gotten power than her fifter, and the banks of the Ifis, like those of the Cam, resounded with encomiastic minstrelfy. Her songs of gratulation were printed in that year under the title of Musarum Oxoniensium 'ΕΛΑΙΟΦΟΡΙ'A, sive ob Fædera, auspiciis Sereniffimi Oliveri Reipub. Ang. Scot. et Hiber. Domini Protectoris, inter Rempub. Britannicam et Ordines fœderatos Belgii feliciter stabilita, Gentis togatæ ad Vada Ifidis Celeusma Metricum. It was ushered to the public by a Latin dedication to the most serene Oliver, by Dr. Owen, the usurping Dean of Christ Church, then Vice-chancellor; in which he apologizes for the Oxonians having been somewhat tardy in their encomiums. It is painful to observe, among the contributors to this collection, the names of Ralph Bathurft, of Trinity College; and Robert South, and John Locke, of Christ Church. Locke (at this time near twenty-two years old) paid his homage in a copy of English as well as Latin verses."

* " The contributors from Trinity College were, Dr. Joseph Arrowsmith, the Master; Mr. James Duport, G. L. P.; three of the Fellows, G. Lynnett, A.M. John Wray (fo he then wrote his name), A.M. the celebrated traveller and botanist, and a third, of whose names the initial letters (I. V.) only are given. One, under-graduate of the fame college, concealed himfelf under the

fignature, R. C."

t " By the inquest of office taken at Warwick, 28 June 1632, on the death of Sir Erafmus Driden, (Efq. 8. Car. p. 3. n. 31.) it was found that his eldeft fon, John Driden, was at the time of his father's death, on the 30th of May preceding, thirty years old, and upwards. From this statement it should seem that he was born about the year 1600; and that our poet's father was born in 1602 or 1603. But the father of Sir Erasmus in his will, made in 1584, mentions his grand fon John, the fon of Erasmus: and if this John be the person who succeeded to the title, he must have been born in or before 1584, and in 1632 must have been at least forty-eight. Our poet's father, therefore, being the third fon of Sir Erasmus, even if a daughter or two intervened, may be presumed to have been born in 1588. I expected to have found the entry of his baptism in the old Register of Canons-Ashby; but that, like many other ancient regitters, is loft."

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" After this production, Dryden appears for some time to have fufpended his dramatic labours; for the State of Innocence, which was published in 1674, could not have been intended for a stage-exhibition, though he has entitled it an opera. Mr. Aubrey, who was perfonally acquainted with Dryden, informs us, that on this occasion he waited on the blind bard, with whom it may be prefumed he was on friendly terms, and previous to entering on his talk, asked his permission to put his great poem into rhyme. 'Ay,' faid Milton, 'you may tag my verfes if you will.' Dennis, who was an enthufiaftic admirer of Milton's poem, mentions a circumfrance relative to this piece worth recording. 'Dryden' (he observes), 'in his preface before the State of Inno. f cence, appears to have been the first, those gentlemen excepted whose verses are before Milton's poem, who discovered in so public a manoner an extraordinary opinion of Milfon's extraordinary merit. And yet 6 Mr. Dryden at that time knew not · half the extent of his excellence, as more than twenty years after-wards he confessed to me, and is pretty plain from his writing the
 State of Innocence. Had he known the full extent of Milton's excellence. Deanis thought he would not have ventured on this undertaking unless he designed to be a foil to him: 'but they, he adds, 'who knew Mr. Dryden, know very well that he was not of a temper to delign to be a foil to any one ".

" So little at this time was Milton's great work known or admired, that Rymer, who promifed in 1578 to publish some strictures upon it (a promise which he never fulfilled), fpeaks of it with extreme contempt, as a worthless piece, which some are pleased to call a prem; nor was it much attended to till about fourteen years after it had been converted into an opera. Our author, however, with equal candour, modesty, and good taste, thus highly extols it: 'I cannot, without injury to the deceafed author of Paradife Loft, but acknowledge that this poem [the State of Innocence] ! has received its entire foundation, part of the do-

fign, and many of the ornaments, from him. What I have borrowed will be fo eafily diferent from my mean productions, that I shall not need to point the reader to the places. And truly I should be forry, for my own sake, that any one should take the pains to compare them together, the original being undoubtedly one of the greatest, most noble, and subtime poems, which either this age or nation has produced.

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"In confequence of fome manufcript copies of this opera having got abroad, it feems to have been attacked before it had yet appeared in print; for he tells us that 'Milton had been 'taxed by fome false critics for choose ing a supernatural argument;' and he quotes four of his own lines, which he says, had been 'sufficiently can'vassed by his ill-natured censurers:'

 Cherub and Seraph, carelefs of their charge,

And wanton in full eafe now live at

'Unguarded leave the passes of the

" And all diffoly'd in hallelujahs lie."

The critical pamphlet which contains these remarks, I have never seen."

Val. i. p. 108. " Swift has censured Dryden for dedicating this work † to three different patrons, as if that were a novel practice, first introduced by our author. He might have been told of Spencer, of Chapman, of Fuller, and others, who were equally . lavish and dif-'creet,' long before the publication of the English Virgil; and in modern times, Garth, Young, and Thomson, have not disdained to follow Dryden's example. Swift, though his kinfman, feems to have-hated him, and has taken every opportunity of depreciating him. 'I'do affirm' (fays he, in the Dedication of the Tale of a Tub, to Prince Posterity), ' upon the word of a fincere man, that there is now actually in being a certain poet called John Dryden, whose translation of Virgil was lately printed in a large · folio well-bound; and if diligent fearch were made, for aught I know, is yet to be feen.' In his Battle of the Books, he again speaks of this translation with equal contempt; and

[&]quot; Dennis's Letters, vol. i, p. 75, 8vo. 1721," † His translation of Virgil.

in his Rhapfody on Poetry, he undervalues Dryden's critical labours.

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" However pleasant and useful it may be to live femetimes with the laughers, we must not greatly rely on them for accuracy of statement; for if they can but produce a lively reprefentation, they are not always nicely ferupulous concerning truth. greater part of Dryden's Prefaces are prefixed to his plays, which were fold at the stated price of all other plays, and did not produce to the author any additional emolument in consequence of a prefatory appendage: nor would his Virgil, I believe, have brought him one shilling the less, though it had been given to the world without either preface or dedication of any kind. The origin of all this malignity was, Swift's having fubmitted to Dryden, for his perulal and judgment (probably about the year 1692), a parcel of Pindaric Odes, which the old bard returned fome time afterwards, faying, · Coufin Swift, you will never be a poet.' Three of these Odes have fince been published, and are such miserable performances, that they fully justify the judgment which Dryden then formed of his kinfman. I may add, that it is not furprifing that Dryden's declaration,-while he was flruggling with want, and oppressed by sickness,-that he thanked God that he possessed his 'foul in patience,' should be fneered at by him, the greater part of whofe life was embittered by disappointed ambition, and who has himself told us, that in the grave alone he ex-pected freedom from the exacerbations of anger and difgust, which for a long feries of years had lacerated his bofom." Vol. i. p. 237.

" To the numerous encomiastic addresses which are found in his works, fome of his friends, and his eldeft fon, feem to have wished that he should have added one more, by dedicating his Virgil to King William. This propofal it is much to his honour that he rejected; for, attached as he had been for many years, however erroneously, to the abdicated monarch, he could not have addressed a panegyric to his fucceffor, though unquestionably worthy of the highest praise, without forfeiting all pretentions to confilency and dignity of character. Tonfon, his bookfeiler, was fo defirous of procuring this dedication, which he probably imagined would promote the fale of

the book, that, in retouching the plates, he made the engraver throughout the work always represent Æneas with a hooked nofe, that he might refemble the illustrious prince then on the

throne." Vol. i. p. 246. " From the month of August 1689, to the time of his death, a period of near eleven years, we must, it appears, consider Dryden possessed of no other income but that which was derived from his own small estate, aided by the occasional bounty of his noble friends, and his own literary exertions. In this period he brought out five plays, the profits of which amounted probably to five hundred pounds: the author's third night producing usually about feventy pounds, and the play itself being fold to the bookfeller for thirty guineas. Nothing, perhaps, more strongly shows the great fertility of his mind, than his having written near one hundred prologues and epilogues. for the most part of extraordinary excellence; having never been affifted by a friend with this kind of decoration to any of his own plays, except in two instances; and having supplied the contemporary dramatifts with above forty pieces of this difficult species of composition. His price for a prologue or epilogue is faid by Dr. Warburton to have been originally four guineas; till being asked by Southerne to write one, he required fix; ' Not,' faid he. ' young man, out of difrespect to you, but the players have had my goods too cheap.' This story, Warburton fays, was told by Southerne to him and Pope, nearly at the fame time. In the Life of Southerne, however, published, shortly afterwards by Shiels and the younger Cibber, on the teltimony of a gentleman who had been personally acquainted with that poet, the fums are faid to have been five and ten guineas; and Dr. Johnson, with more probability, supposes, that Dryden's original price for a prologue was rwo guineas, and that from Southerne he demanded three: fo difficult is it to elicit truth from any traditional tale.

" By his translation of Virgil, he got at the least twelve hundred pounds. Of his other works it is not ealy to ascertain the price; but from the let ters which paffed between him and 1 s bookseller, it may be collected, that he usually received fifty guineas for about fifteen hundred lines.

"Tonfon, who feems to have con-

fidered the making of verses as much a manufacture as the making of paper,

Each word and fyllable brought to the fcale, And valued to a scruple in the fale;

for on one occasion we find him complaining bitterly, that he had not enough for his money. 'If,' fays he,

the matter of fact as I state it be true (and, upon my word, what I mention I can show you in your letter),

then pray, Sir, confider how much dearer I pay than you offered it to the other bookfeller; for he might · have had to the end of the story of

· Daphnis [Daphne] for twenty guie neas, which is, in your translation, 4 759 lines; and then, suppose twenty

guineas more for the fame number (759 lines), that makes for forty guineas 1518 lines; and all that I have

for fifty guineas are but 1446: fo that, if I have no more, I pay ten guineas above forty, and have feventy-" true lines less for fifty, in proportion, than the other bookfeller should have

had for forty!' Degrading as it may appear to our author, we must, therefore, now estimate his works, not by their value, but their bulk. At the rate already mentioned, his translation of Juvenal and Persius, to which he contributed about 3500 verses, would not have produced more than 1251.; but in confideration of the excellence of the original, as well as the transation, and that the latter was not a detached but an entire work, 1501. may

perhaps be estimated as the profit of

that undertaking. From the Fables, we know, he derived but 2681. 15s. (though afterwards, on that contract, a further fum became due to his representatives); and for the two volumes of Miscellanies published within this period, the versions of Du Fresnoy, and the first book of Tacitus, various Dedications, and fome other productions, 300l. more may be allowed. To

these several sums, which amount to 24181. 15s. we may add, perhaps, a fum of 1000l. derived probably from the munificence of Lord Dorfet, the Marquis of Normanby, the Dutchess of Ormond, and his wealthy kinfman of Chesterton, whose noble present, in return for the epiftle addressed to him,

he received about a month before his

" King William," fays Lord Orford, " had so little leisure to attend to, or fo little disposition to, men of wit, that when St. Evremont was introduced to him, the King faid coldly, 'I think you were a Major-general in the French fervice.' "Anecdoies of Painting, iii. 113.

death; and whose liberality at a former period he also acknowledges, in a letter which has come to my hands fince some of the preceding sheets were printed. At an average, therefore, supposing these statements to be correct, his annual income from all thefe fources, including his private effate, even during this diffrefsful period of eleven years, was above 4001. per an-Yet his complaints were not without ground; for let it be remembered, that his three fons were now grown to man's estate, without any prospect of future provision, except what his little patrimony afforded; that when he made these complaints, he had no certain revenue but about 1201. per annum; and that the principal support of his family was obtained by unceasing toil, rendered still more irksome by age and infirmities. 'This ' is a bufinefs,' fays he, in a letter to Tonson, in 1697, of the greatest con-' fequence in the world; for you know how I love Charles; and therefore I write to you with all the earnestness of a father. If I must die of over-' fludy, I cannot spend my life better 'than in faving his.' Nor was the constant labour by which these sums were acquired, his only grievance: the greater part of his income being occasional and casual, was no small evil, and he must have experienced much embarrassment from the uncertainty of his revenue; in affluence, perhaps, for half the year, and during the other half often without a guinea. Instead of suffering him to earn a precarious and uncertain livelihood by laberious and inceffant literary exertions, it furely would have been more noble in the ministers of King William to have fettled on him a pension equal in value to the falary of the offices which he had conscientiously relinquished; overlooking his former satires, and his prefent political and religious attachments, which latter, if at all attended to, entitled him to respect; and confidering him only as one of the greatest poets which England had produced in many centuries; who, on that ground

alone, at fuch an advanced period of

life, had an indisputable claim to ease

and independence. William, how-

ever, was no patron of poets : and

Dryden received no favour whatfo-

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ever, either from the prince on the throne, or those to whom the dispensation of the royal bounty was entrusted: and while he was thus neglected, he had the mortification to see the infamous and perjured Titus Oates countenanced by the court, and rewarded with a pension of three hundred pounds a year, which he enjoyed

to the time of his death *. " During this calamitous feafon of his life, it should be remembered to his honour, that his fpirit was unbroken; and however he may have complained of diffress and embarrassments, no regard to his interest could induce him to abandon his religious or political opinions; as is evinced by a paper written but fix months before his death, in which he speaks of his fituation and prospects with great dignity and fortitude. What has hindered me from writing to you (fays he, in a letter to a kinfwoman), was neither ill health, nor a worse thing, ingratitude; but a flood of little bufinesses, which yet are necessary to my fublistence, and of which I hoped to have given you a good account before this time: but the court rather speaks kindly of me, than does any thing for me, though they promise largely; and perhaps they think I will advance as they go backward; in which they will be much deceived, for I can never go an inch beyond my conscience and honour. If they will confider me as a man who has done my best to improve the language, and especially the poetry, and will be content with my acquiescence under the prefent government, and forbearing fatire on it, that I can promife, because I can perform it; but I can

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XXXVI. Garnett's Tour through the Highlands of Scotland, (Continued from p. 125.)

neither take the oaths, nor forfake my

(To be continued.)

religion." Vol. i. p. 453.

METHOD OF RAISING REGIMENTS.

"AMONG the great obstacles to the improvement and prosperity of both the highlands and islands, as Dr. Smith observes, is the unhappy frequency of our wars. It has been computed, that between soldiers and

failors, every war takes from the county of Argyle alone, between three and four thousand of its most active and able hands, the support of thousands more, sew of whom live to return to their native country. In comparison of this, how trifling are all the other losses by emigration!

" The proprietors, either to become perfons of confequence in the eyes of government, or to increase their incomes by procuring the command of the regiments they raife, and many of them, no doubt, with a laudable view of ferving their country, are ambitious to raife regiments and companies, and call upon their tenants for their fons. They have undoubtedly no longer a legal power to compel the young men to quit their parents and join the army. as was the case formerly; but few of the peafants have any leafes, and the fear of lofing their farms is a fufficient motive to induce them to comply. The laird, perhaps, comes to an old tenant, and fays, 'My friend, I am raifing a regiment, and must have your two fons: here is a certain fum as a bounty.' The old man, with tears in his eyes, tells him that they are the support of his years, and of their aged mother, neither of whom are able to work, and that he cannot spare them. The laird probably replies, that he may certainly pleafe himself, but that such a person has offered more for his farm: this hint is fufficient for the poor old man, and with tears in his eyes he confents. Should he be obstinate, what is his fituation? Whither can he go where he will not meet with fimilar conditions? Betides, there is generally a tacit agreement among the proprietors in different parts of the Highlands, not to receive any one as a tenant from another estate, unless he bring a certificate from his quondam laird. I believe that there are not many instances where this power has been carried fo far, as to deprive a man of his farm, but I have heard of fome, and the tenants know the confequences too well, not to confent with a good grace on the first application. Hence the reader will eafily perceive, that though the feudal claims have been abolished, the highland chieftain has nearly the fame power as ever over his vaifals; and

[&]quot; This deteffable miscreant died in 1705; so that he received near 5000l. from the Exchequer."

will have till long leafes are granted, which will render the tenants a little more independent." Vol. i. p. 166.

DISTRESSES OF THE HIGHLANDERS.

" THE natural disadvantages of the highlands and islands are such, as one would think ought to induce the proprietors, by every means in their power, to foften the rigours of the lot of those who are born, and live, upon these bleak and dreary hills. The only parts capable of cultivation, are the vallies or glens around the bases of the mountains, which having the fun for a few hours only, vegetation is palfied, and advances flowly; the harwest being always very late. climate is equally discouraging to the purposes of agriculture; the spring is bleak and piercing, if indeed there can be faid to be any fpring; but there are, properly speaking, only two seafons, winter and fummer: the winter fnows and frosts continue very late, and are feldom fubdued, till the fummer feafon brings forward at once the imperfect vegetation; and the crops before they are ripe, begin to be nipped by the keen blafts of winter. latter feafon is long and tempestuous, and, during its continuance, the people are almost entirely cut off from all communication with the low countries, by beds of fnow, impassable torrents, and pathless mountains on the one side; and by long and dangerous navigations on the other.

* To these accumulated discouragements of nature, furely the proprietors ought to be humane and attentive. The rents ought to be moderate; they will admit of a gradual augmentation, according to the increasing price of provisions; but if the rents have been tripled, while the prices of cattle have not been doubled, can it be expected that the tenants should enjoy any degree of comfort, or that it should diminish their regret at leaving their native hills, where their ancestors have long refided, and which they would never quit as long as they could acquire a comfortable provision for their families? Mr. Knox's description of the diffresses of the Highlands has often affected me with horror, even when I hoped it was exaggerated; but my own observation, and information which I have obtained from intelligent and humane individuals, convince me that his picture is not too high coloured. Absolute starvation is not indeed so common, since the introduction of potatoes, but other circumstances remain very nearly the same.

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"If, with great labour and fatigue, fays this humane and patriotic man, the farmer raifes a flender crop of oats and barley, the autumnal rains often baffle his utmost efforts, and frustrate all his expectations; and instead of being able to pay an exorbitant rent, he fees his family in danger of perishing during the winter, when he is precluded from any possibility of assistance elsewhere.

" Nor are his cattle in a better fituation: in fummer they pick up a fcanty support among the moralles, and heathy mountains; but in winter, when the grounds are covered with fnow, and when the naked wilds afford them neither shelter nor subsistence, the few cows, finall, lean, and ready to drop down through want of pasture, are brought into the hut where the family refides, and frequently share with them their little stock of meal, which had been purchased or raised for the family only; while the cattle thus fultained, are bled occasionally, to afford nourithment for the children after it has been boiled, or made into cakes .

"The sheep being left upon the open heaths, seek to shelter themselves from the inclemencies of the weather, amongst the shallows upon the lee side of the mountains; and here they are frequently buried under the snow for several weeks together. In this situation, they eat their own and each others wool, and hold out wonderfully against cold and hunger; but even in moderate winters, a considerable number are found dead after the snow has disappeared, and in rigorous seasons few are left alive.

"Meanwhile the steward or factor, hard pressed by letters from the gaming-house, or Newmarket, demands the rent in a tone which makes no great allowance for unpropitious seasons, the

* "This practice of bleeding cattle, though common when Mr. Knox wrote, is now little used fince the introduction of potatoes: it is still, however, reforted to occasionally."

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death of cattle, and other accidental misfortunes; the laird's wants must be

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"Such is the state of farming, if it may be fo called, throughout the interior parts of the Highlands; but as that country has an extensive coast, and many islands, it may perhaps be supposed that the inhabitants of those shores are in a much better situation. This is, however, as yet, by no means the case; those gifts of nature, which in other commercial countries would have been subservient to the most valuable purposes, are here lost, or nearly fo, to the natives and to the public. The only difference, therefore, between the inhabitants of the interior parts, and those of the most distant coast or island, consists in this; that the latter, with the labours of the field, have to encounter alternately the dangers of the ocean, and all the fatigues

of navigation.

"To the diffrefling circumstances at home, which have been already described, new difficulties and toils await the devoted farmer when abroad. In hopes of gaining a little money to pay his rent, or a little fish to support his family, he leaves his wife and infants at the commencement of the fishery in October, accompanied by his fons, brothers, and frequently an aged parent; and embarks in a small open boat, in quest of herrings, with no other provifions than oatmeal, potatoes, and fresh water; no other bedding than heath or brushwood; one end of the boat being covered with an old fail, to defend then, from the inclemencies of the seas and skies. Thus provided, he searches from bay to bay, through turbulent feas, fr quently for feveral weeks together, before the shoals of herring are discovered. The glad tidings seem to vary, but not to diminish his fa-tigues. Unremitting nightly labour, pinching cold winds, heavy seas, uninhabited shores, covered with snow, or deluged with rains, contribute towards filling up the measure of his distresses: while to men of such exquifite feelings as the Highlanders generally possess, the scene which awaits him at home, does it most effectually.

"Having realized a little money among country purchasers, he returns

with the remainder of his capture, through a long navigation, frequently amidst unceasing hurricanes, not to a comfortable home and cheerful family, which would make him forget his toils, and fmile at past dangers; but to a turf cabin, environed with fnow, and almost hid from the eye by its great depth. Upon entering his folitary mansion, he generally finds part of his family lying upon heath or straw, languishing through want or epidemical disease; while the few surviving cows, which poffels the other end of the cottage, instead of furnishing further supplies of milk and blood, demand his immediate attention to keep them in existence.

"The feafon now approaches, when he is again to delve and labour the ground, on the fame flender prospect of a plentiful crop, or a dry harvest. The cattle which have survived the feverity of the winter, are turned out to the mountains; and having put his domestic affairs into the best fituation, which a train of accumulated misfortunes admit of, he refumes the oar in fearch of the white fishery. If succefsful in this, he fets out in his open boat upon a voyage of two hundred miles, to vend his cargo of cod, ling, &c. at Greenock or Glafgow. produce, which feldom exceeds in value twelve or fifteen pounds, is laid out, in conjunction with his companions, in meal and fishing-tackle; and he returns through the fame tedious navigation *.

"The autumn calls his attention again to the field; the ufual round of disappointment, fatigue, and diffress, await him: thus he drags through a wretched existence, in hopes of soon arriving at that country where the

weary shall be at rest.

"In the time of war, these poor wretches, while engaged in the fisheries to keep their drooping families in existence, are indiscriminately pressed, without regard to cases or circumstances, however distressing to the unhappy victims or their families. These virtuous, but friendless men, while endeavouring by every means in their power to pay their rents; to support their wives, their children, and their aged parents; in short, while they are acting in every respect the part of

Vol. IV .- No. XXXV.

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honest,

^{• &}quot;Should the Crinan Canal be completed, and the dues fufficiently low, this tedious navigation will be avoided."

honest, inoffensive subjects, are dragged away from their families and con-

nexions.

"The aged, the fick, and the helplefs, look in vain for their return. They are heard of no more. Lamentations, cries, and defpair, pervade the village or the diffrict. Thus deprived of their main support, the rent unpaid, the cattle fold or feized, whole families are reduced to the extremity of want, and turned out amidst the inclemencies of the winter, to relate their piteous tale, and implore from the wretched but hospitable mountaineers, a little meal or a little milk, to preferve their infants from perishing in their arms †." Vol. i. p. 174.

CONFLICTS OF THE CLANS-PLUN-DERING OF CATTLE.

" THE most trifling cause gave rise to a quarrel (among the chiefs), of which the hopes of plunder were the chief incentives. They conducted their plundering expeditions with the utmost policy, and reduced the whole art of theft into a regular fystem, which, from habit, had loft all the appearance of criminality; they confidered it as their vocation, and when they formed a party for an expedition against their neighbour's property, they and their friends prayed fo earneltly to Heaven for their fuccess, as if they were upon the point of en-gaging in the most laudable design. Mr. Pennant says, that the constant petition at grace of the old Highland chieftains was delivered with great fervour in these terms: Lord! turn the world upfide down, that chieftains may make bread out of it: the meaning of which was, that the world might become, for their benefit, a scene of rapine and confusion.

"The great object of plunder was cattle, and this gave rife to many ingenious methods of fecuring them. When they were stolen, they had wonderful fagacity in tracing them. When a creach, or great expedition, had been made against distant herds, the owners, as foon as they discovered their loss, rose in arms, and, with all their friends, made an instant pursuit, tracing the cattle by their track for scores of miles. Their nicety in distinguishing the track of their cattle from those that

were only cafually wandering, was amazingly fagacious. They would purfue them through the territories of the different clans, with the certainty of hounds following their game; and as foon as they arrived on the effate where the track was loft, they immediately attacked the proprietor, and obliged him to recover it from his lands forwards, or make good the loft they had fuffained.

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These times no longer exist; the abolition of seudal jurisdiction, and the extension of the common privileges of law, have deprived the chiefs of a great part of their power, and it is loped that civilization will soon sol-

low." Vol. i. p. 215.

BLACK STONES.

" AT a fmall distance from the church (of Icolmkill) was pointed out to us a fpot under which lay concealed the black stones, upon which the old Highland chieftains, when they made contracts and alliances, used to take the oath, which was confidered as more facred than any other obligation, and could not be violated without the blackeft infamy. Macdonald, lord of the isles, delivered the rights of their lands to his vassals in the isles and on the main land, with uplifted hands and bended knees on the black stones; and in this posture, before many witnesses, folemnly swore that he would never recall the rights he then granted. So facred was an oath fworn upon these stones, that it became proverbial for a person who was certain of what he affirmed, to fay that he could make oath of it upon the black stones. -Martin's Description of the Western Ifles, p. 260." Vol. i. p. 257.

LIBRARY AT ICOLMKILL.

"THE college, or monastery, was formerly possessed of a valuable library, which has been destroyed or lost. Boethius afferts, that Fergus II. who affisted Alaric the Goth in the facking of Rome, brought away, as part of the plunder, a chest of manuscripts, which he presented to the monastery of Icolmkill. A small parcel of the books was, in the year 1525, brought to Aberdeen, and great pains were taken to unfold them, but through age

† "Knox's View of the British Empire, vol. i. p. 126."

and the tenderness of the parchment, little could be read; from what the learned were able to make out, the work appeared by the style to be an unguelished book of Sallust.

"Mr. Pennant observes, that the register and records of the island, all written on parchment, and probably other more antique and valuable remains, were deftroyed by that worfe than Gothic fynod, which, at the reformation, declared war against all At the reformation, the M.MS. of I, which were faved, were in part carried to the Scotch colleges of Donay and Rome, at least the chartularies, and fuch as were efteemed most valuable by the monks. It is faid, that some of the manuscripts were carried to Inverary, and that one of the Dukes of Montague found fome of them in the thops of that town used as fnuff-paper.

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"This island is the property of the Duke of Argyle, and forms part of the parish of Rois, or Kilviceuen: the minister of the parish, who resides at Rois in Mull, performs divine service once a quarter in this island; and this is, I believe, all the religious instruction the inhabitants receive. Strange reverse, that divine service should only be performed four times a year in a place where it was formerly performed as many times a day!" Vol. i. p. 279.

BLACK-MAIL CONTRIBUTION -- IM-PROVEMENT OF LANGUAGE.

"THESE public works , as Mr. Pennant observes, were at first very disagreeable to the old chieftains, and lessened their influence greatly; for by admitting strangers among them, their clans were taught that the lairds were not the greatest men in the world: but they had another reason for this dislike, which was much more folid. country was a den of thieves; and as long as they had their waters, their torrents, and their bogs in a state of nature, the chiefs made their excursions, and could plunder and retreat with their booty in full security: and fo little were the laws regarded in this part of the country, that till after the late rebellion, no stop could be put to this infamous practice. The contribution called Black-mail was publicly levied in the most barefaced manner, by feveral of the plundering chieftains, over a vast extent of country: whoever paid it regularly, had their cattle infured, but those who dared to refuse were to fuffer. Among these freebooters, Rob Roy Macgregor and Barrifdale were particularly diffinguished. Indeed, the Highlanders at that time effeemed the open theft of cattle, or making a creach, by no means dishonourable: the young men confidered it as a piece of gallantry, by which they recommended themselves to their mistresses. The opening of roads, and stationing of soldiers at the chain of forts, had however the defired effect; and these lawless plunderers were at last rendered peaceable and good sub-This chain confifts of Fort-George on the east, Fort-Augustus in the middle, and Fort-William on the west. These forts were originally of confequence in a military view; at prefent the chief fervices derived from them, and particularly Fort-William and Fort-Augustus, have been preserving the country from robberies; for this purpofe, detachments are occasionally fent to different parts of the country. A dangerous banditti, not more than fifteen or fixteen years ago, infested this part of the country; the military from each fort purfued them among the caves and fastnesses of the moun-They consisted of a set of deferters, and murderers, thieves, leagued together, to the great terror and annoyance of an extensive district. The ringleaders were at length taken by the military parties; some of them were transported, and the rest hanged. Since that period the country has been perfectly fafe.

" Another benefit which has been derived from these forts, and the roads connected with them, has been the civilization of the Highlands. English garrifons, which have succesfively occupied the forts, and the number of travellers to whom the military roads have given access, have undoubtedly induced the example of gentler and more polified manners, and have affifted in banishing those exclusive prejudices and partialities in favour of an individual superior, and of every thing attached to him, which had acquired fuch ferocity under the fystem of clanship. Besides, by these means, the English language has been

Bridges, &c. erected by General Wade.

much improved; we had often occafion to remark in our journey through the Highlands, that those who could fpeak English, spoke it not only without the Scotticisms, but without the tone of the Lowlanders: this was particularly evident in the line of the forts; both at Fort-Augustus and Invernefs, the language is spoken as correctly, and with as much purity, as in any part in England." Vol. i. p. 313. (To be continued.)

XXXVII. Symes's Account of an Embaffy to Ava: (Concluded from p. 130.)

MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BIRMANS-FOOD-CLIMATE.

"THE government of Ava is extremely attentive to provide, in times of peace, for the contingencies of war; the royal magazines, I was told, could furnish 20,000 firelocks, which, if they refembled the specimens I faw, cannot be very formidable; these have been imported, at different periods, into the country, by ships trading to Rangoon and other parts of the empire, and are either of French manufacture, or condemned muskets from the English arsenals in India. The Birmans are very fond of their arms, of which they take great care; their gunsmiths, who are all natives of Cassay, keep them in repair, but they are in general fo bad as to be out of the power of art to render them ferviceable. I faw a tolerably good fowling-piece, which they faid was entirely the work of a Caffay artificer; this, however, was allowed to be an extraordinary effort of genius; the person who showed it to me, presented me, at the fame time, with a bamboo, which threw out a short spear of iron, by means of a spring; it was executed by the maker of the gun, and feemed to be formed after a model of an English walkingflick, that contained a concealed fpike; the imitation evinced much ingenuity, although the workmanship was coarse, and the iron badly polished.

" By far the most respectable part of the Birman military force is their establishment of war-boats. town of note, in the vicinity of the river, is obliged to furnish a certain number of men, and one or more boats, in proportion to the magnitude

of the place. I was informed that the king can command, at very short notice, five hundred of these vessels: they are constructed out of the folia trunk of the teak tree, which is excavated partly by fire, and partly by cutting; the largest are from eighty to one hundred feet long, but the breadth seldom exceeds eight feet, and even this space is produced by artificially extending the fides after the trunk has been hollowed. They carry from fifty to fixty rowers, who use fhort oars that work on a spindle; the prow is folid, and has a flat furface, on which, when they go to war, a piece of ordnance is mounted, a fix, a nine, or even a twelve pounder; the gun carriage is fecured by lashings to strong bolts on each side, and swivels are frequently fixed on the curvature of the stern.

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"The rowers are feverally provided with a fword and a lance, which are placed by his fide whilft he plies the oars. Besides the boatmen, there are usually thirty foldiers on board, who are armed with muskets: thus prepared, they go in fleets to meet the foe, and, when in fight, draw up in a line, prefenting their prows to the enemy. Their attack is extremely impetuous; they advance with great rapidity, and fing a war-fong, at once to encourage their people, daunt their adversaries, and regulate the strokes of their oars; they generally endeavour to grapple, and when that is effected, the action becomes very fevere, as these people are endued with great courage, strength, and activity. In times of peace they are fond of exercifing in their boats, and I have often been entertained with the dexterity they difplay in the management of them. The veffels being low in the water, their greatest danger is that of being run down by a larger boat striking on their broadside, a missortune which the fteerfman is taught to dread, and to avoid above all others. It is furprifing to fee the facility with which they steer, and elude each other in their mock combats. The rowers are also practifed to row backwards, and impel the veffel with the ftern foremost; this is the mode of retreat, by means of which the artillery fill bears upon their opponent. largest of the war-boats do not draw When a more than three feet water. person of rank is on board, there is a

fort of moving tilt or canopy, for his particular accommodation, placed fometimes in the centre, and fometimes on the prow. The fides of the boat are either gilt as far as the water's edge, or plain, according to the rank of the person it carries. Gilded boats are only permitted to princes of the blood, or to persons holding the highest fitations, such as a Maywoon of a province, and a minister of state.

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" It is by no means improbable that the use of gunpowder was well known in India before its effects were discovered in the West; yet there is not any reason to believe that the natives of Ava applied it to the purpose of musketry, till Europeans instructed them in the art. According to Indian accounts, cannon were fabricated in the East long before the era of European conquest; their artillery, however, was not capable of being tranfported with facility, or at all used in the field: they were made of iron bars beaten into a cylindrical form, rudely put together, but of great strength and enormous weight, from which, when raifed on a rampart or tower, they threw huge stones to annoy the enemy. The musket was first introduced into the Pegue and Ava countries by the Portuguese, and is an implement of war which the inhabitants unwifely prefer to their own native weapons, the spear and sabre; a partiality that is highly prejudicial to themselves, for nothing can be less formidable than fuch fire-arms as they possess, or have the means of procuring. The proper indigenous weapons of the country are the spear, the javelin, which is thrown from the hand, the cross-bow, and the fabre; the latter is used by the Birmans not only as an implement of war, but is likewise applied to various purpofes as an inftrument of manual labour; with this the peafant fells trees, shapes timbers, cuts bamboos, or defends himself against an enemy and wild beasts; he never travels without it, and generally, when on a journey, carries a shield on his left arm: they encumber themfelves with lefs baggage than perhaps any other people; and are fatisfied with a fcanty portion of the hardest

"In their food the Birmans, compared with the Indians, are grofs and uncleanly. Although their religion forbids the flaughter of animals in ge-

neral, yet they apply the interdiction only to those that are domesticated: all game is eagerly fought after, and in many places it is publicly fold; rep. tiles also, such as lizards, guanas, and fnakes, constitute a part of the subsistence of the lower classes. During our voyage up the river, the boatmen, after we had brought to, used frequently to hunt for cameleons and lizards among the thickets. They are extremely fond of vegetables; at those places where garden-greens were not to be procured, they gathered wild forrel, and fometimes fubstituted the tender leaves of trees; thefe, boiled with rice, and moistened with a little oil, or feafoned with gnapee, or pickled fprat, compose a meal with which a Birman peafant or boatman is fatisfied: the higher ranks, however, live with more delicacy, although their fare is never very fumptuous.

" The climate of every part of the Birman empire, which I have visited. bore testimony to its falubrity, by the best possible criterion, the appearance and vigour of the natives. The feafons are regular, and the extremes of heat and cold are feldom experienced; at least the duration of that intense heat, which immediately precedes the commencement of the rainy feafon, is fo fhort, that it incommodes but for a very little time. During our residence in the country we lost only one man by disease; another met an accidental death; in wandering through the woods he became the prey of a tiger." P. 319.

CHARACTER OF THE BIRMANS.

"THE Birmans are a lively, inquisitive race, active, irascible, and impatient; the character of their Bengal neighbours is too well known, as the reverse, to need any delineation; the unworthy passion of jealousy, which prompts most nations of the East to immure their women within the walls of an haram, and furround them with guards, feems to have scarcely any influence over the minds of this extraordinary and more liberal people. Birman wives and daughters are not concealed from the fight of men, and are fuffered to have as free intercourse with each other as the rules of European fociety admit; but in other respects women have just reason to complain of their treatment; they are confidered confidered as not belonging to the fame scale of the creation as men, and even the law stamps a degrading diftinction between the fexes; the evidence of a woman is not received as of equal weight with that of a man, and a woman is not fuffered to ascend the steps of a court of justice, but is obliged to deliver her testimony on the outside of the roof. The custom of felling their women to firangers, which has before been adverted to, is confined to the lowest classes of society, and is perhaps oftener the confequence of heavy pecuniary embarraffment, than an act of inclination; it is not, however, confidered as fhameful, nor is the female dishonoured: partly perhaps from this cause, and partly from their habits of education, women furrender themfelves the victims of this barbarous custom with apparent refignation. It is also said that they are very seldom unfaithful to their foreign mafters; indeed they are often effentially useful, particularly those who trade, by keeping their accounts and transacting their bufiness: but when a man departs from the country, he is not suffered to carry his temporary wife along with him; on that point the law is exceedingly rigorous: every thip, before the receives her clearance, is diligently fearched by the officers of the customhouse: even if their vigilance were to be eluded, the woman would be quickly missed; and it would be soon discovered in what veffel she had gone, nor could that thip ever return to a Birman port but under penalty of confifcation of the property, and the infliction of a heavy fine and imprisonment on the mafter: female children alfo, born of a Birman mother, are not suffered to be taken away. Men are permitted to emigrate; but they think that the expatriation of women would impoverish the state, by diminishing the fources of its population.

"One vice is usually the parent of another: the Birmans, being exempt from that of jealousy, do not refort to the diabolical practice of emasculating male children, to educate them as spies over their women. Chastity, they know, is more fafely guarded by principles of honour and attachment than by moats or castles. When Arracan was conquered by the Birmans, several eunuchs were made prisoners, belonging to the prince of the country, who had adopted that degenerate cus-

tom of Mahomedan growth. These people are maintained by the Birman monarch rather as memorials of his conquest, than for any fervices they are required to perform. Infidelity is not a characteristic of Birman wives; in general they have too much employ, ment to leave leifure for the corruption of their minds. A woman of the highest rank seldom sits in idleness at home; her female fervants, like those of Grecian dames of antiquity, ply "the various labours of the loom: whilft the miftrefs superintends and directs their industry. On the occafion of a formal visit to the mother of the present queen, we observed in one of the galleries of her palace, three or four looms at work, wrought by the damfels of her household. Weaving is chiefly a female occupation. Most Birman families make all the cotton and filk cloth that is required for their domestic confumption.

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" The Birmans, in fome points of their disposition, display the ferocity of barbarians, and in others, all the humanity and tenderness of polished life: they inflict the most savage vengeance on their enemies; as invaders, defolation marks their track, for they spare neither fex nor age; but at home they assume a different character; there they manifest benevolence, by extending aid to the infirm, the aged, and the fick : filial piery is inculcated as a facred precept, and its duties are religiously observed. A common beggar is no where to be feen: every individual is certain of receiving fuftenance, which, if he cannot procure by his own labour, is provided for him by

MODE OF CATCHING WILD ELEPHANTS.

others." P. 328.

"THE reputation that my Bengal draught fman had acquired by his botanical drawings, performed under the infpection of Dr. Buchanan, having come to the knowledge of his Birman Majefty, or, in the Birman phrafe, having reached the Golden Ears, the King was pleased to defire a specimen of his skill, and sent over a painting on glass, executed by a Siamese artist in his own service, signifying his royal will that it should be copied upon paper. This picture, which was a tolerable performance, represented the mode of catching wild elephants in the

forests. It was thus described to me : the hunters, mounted on tame elephants that are trained to the business, by lying flat on their backs, introduce themselves unnoticed into a wild herd, and take an opportunity to cast a running noofe in the track of one that is meant to be secured. The other end of the rope is fastened to the body of the tame elephant, who immediately throws the wild one down; a battle then enfues, in which the trained elephant, being affifted by its affociates, foon overpowers the inhabitant of the woods, who is deferted by all the others; it is afterwards born away a prisoner, fast bound to two of its captors, whilst another moves on at its head, and a fourth urges it behind. In a few weeks, by proper discipline, the animal becomes docile, and fubmits to its fate. Those that are taken in this manner, I was told, are for the most part females. Male elephants are usually enticed by the blandishments of females *, trained for the purpofe, into an enclosure or Keddah, from whence they cannot extricate themselves, and are easily secured. My painter performed the talk fo much to his Majetty's fatisfaction, that a request was made for his further fervices, in executing a drawing of a celebrated image of Gaudma, in which I willingly acquiesced. He was employed on it a week, and when it was finished, his Majesty condescended to express his approbation of the performance, which was certainly much fuperior to any thing that his own painter could produce." P. 346.

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"ON the 30th of September, the day appointed by his Birman Majefty to receive the English gentlemen in the character of an imperial deputation, we crossed the lake at ten o'clock in the morning, attended by our customary suite, and accompanied by Babasheen and several Birman officers. We entered the fort, as usual, by the

western gate, when, instead of passing, as on former occasions, along the north fide of the enclosure of the palace, to reach the fireet leading down to the Lotoo, we now proceeded round by the fouth, and in this new direction obferved many more houses of distinguished structure, than by the other route. In our way we passed through a fhort street, entirely composed of fadlers and harness makers thops. On alighting, we were conducted into the Rhoom, to wait there until the Engy Teekien should arrive, which he did precifely at the hour of twelve. Several Chobwas, who were to be introduced on this day, had taken their feats in the Rhoom before we entered; each of them held a piece of filk or cotton cloth in his lap, defigned, according to the established etiquette, as a propitiatory offering to his Majesty; and on the cloth was placed a faucer, containing a fmall quantity of unboiled rice, which it feems is an indifpenfable part of the ceremony. The Birman custom differs in this particular from the usage of Hindostan: a person, on his presentation at the imperial court of Delhi, offers to the fovereign an odd number of the gold coin commonly called Mohurs t, an even number being confidered as inauspicious; but the court of Ummerapoora, with a more delicate refinement, never permits an offering in money, but requires from a foreigner fomething the produce of his country, and from a fubject, fome article of manufacture. The donation of rice is not, as in India, when prefented by Brahmins to the incarnations of Vishnu, meant as an acknowledgment of divine attributes, but is merely defigned as a recognition of the power of the monarch, and an acknowledgment of the property of the foil being vefted in him; a truth which is expressively declared, by offering him its most useful production. During our continuance in the Rhoom, tea was ferved to us, and when we advanced to the outer gate, we were not obliged to put off our shoes, but were permitted to wear

"For a more ample description of the manner of catching wild elephants in Tipura, near the mountains that divide Bengal from the Birman dominions, see a paper by John Corfe, Esq. in the third volume of the Asiat. Researches. The practice of Pegue differs somewhat from that of the Bengal hunters."

† "Mohur is a corrupt name given by Europeans to this coin. Afturfi is its proper term; Pagoda likewife, as applied to a coin, is an illegitimate word, of which the natives know nothing, except on the authority of their conquerors."

them, until we had reached the inner enclosure; that separates the court of the Lotoo from that of the royal palace, within which, not any nobleman of the court is allowed to go with his seet covered. There is a double partition wall, dividing the two courts, with an intervening space of ten or twelve feet, through which a gallery leads, that is appropriated exclusively to the use of the King when he chooses to preside in person in the Lotoo.

"On entering the gate, we perceived the royal faloon of ceremony in front of us, and the court affembled in all the parade of pomp and decoration. It was an open hall, supported by colonnades of pillars twenty in length, and only four in depth: we were conducted into it by a flight of steps, and advancing, took our places next the fpace opposite to the throne, which is always left vacant, as being in full view of his Majetty. On our entrance, the basement of the throne, as at the Lotoo, was alone visible, which we judged to be about five feet high; folding doors screened the feat from our view. The throne, called Yazapalay, was richly gilded and carved; on each fide a finall gallery, enclosed by a gilt baluffrade, extended a few feet to the right and left, containing four umbrellas of state; and on two tables, at the foot of the throne, were placed feveral large veilels of gold, of various forms and for different purpofes: immediately over the throne, a iplendid piafath role in feven stages above the roofs of the building, crowned by a tee, or umbrella, from which a spiral rod was elevated above the

"We had been feated a little more than a quarter of an hour, when the folding doors that concealed the feat, opened with a loud noise, and discovered his Majesty ascending a slight of steps, that led up to the throne from the inner apartment; he advanced but flowly, and feemed not to possess a free use of his limbs, being obliged to support himself with his hands on the balustrade. I was informed, however, that this appearance of weakness did not proceed from any bodily infirmity, but from the weight of the regal habiliments in which he was clad; and if what we were told was true, that he carried on his drefs fifteen vifs, upwards of fifty pounds avoirdupois of gold, his difficulty of ascent was not surprising. On

reaching the top he flood for a minute, as though to take breath, and then fat down on an embroidered cushion with his legs inverted. His crown was a high conical cap, richly studded with precious stones; his fingers were co. vered with rings, and in his drefs he bore the appearance of a man cased in golden armour, whilft a gilded, or probably a golden, wing on each shoulder, did not add much lightness to his figure. His looks denoted him to be between fifty and fixty years old, of a strong make, in stature rather beneath a middle height, with hard features and of a dark complexion; yet the expression of his countenance was not unpleasing, and seemed, I thought, to indicate an intelligent and inquiring

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"On the first appearance of his Majesty, all the courtiers bent their bodies, and held their hands joined in an attitude of supplication. Nothing farther was required of us, than to lean a little forward, and to turn in our legs as much as we could; not any act being fo unpolite, or contrary to etiquette, as to prefent the foles of the feet towards the face of a dignified person. Four Brahmins, dressed in white caps and gowns, chanted the ufual prayer at the foot of the throne: a Nakhaan then advanced into the vacant space before the King, and recited, in a musical cadence, the name of each person who was to be introduced on that day, and the present of which, in the character of a suppliant, he entreated his Majesty's acceptance. My offering confifted of two pieces of Benares gold brocade; Doctor Buchanan and Mr. Wood each prefented one. When our names were mentioned, we were feparately defired to take a few grains of rice in our hands, and joining them, to bow to the King as low as we conveniently could; with which we immediately complied. When this ceremony was finished, the King uttered a few indiffinct words, to convey, as I was informed, an order for investing some persons present, with the infignia of a certain degree of nobility; the imperial mandate was inflantly proclaimed aloud by heralds in the court. His Majesty remained only a few minutes longer, and during that time he looked at us attentively, but did not honour us with any verbal notice, or fpeak at all, except to give the order before mentioned. When he rofe to depart he manifested the same signs of infirmity as on his entrance; after he had withdrawn, the folding doors were closed, and the court broke

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"In descending, we took notice of two pieces of cannon, apparently nine pounders, which were placed in the court, on either side of the stairs, to defend the entrance of the palace. Sheds protected them from the weather, and they were gilded all over: a royal carriage also was in waiting, of curious workmanship, and ornamented with a royal spire; there was a pair of horses harnessed to it, whose trappings glistened in the sun." P. 411.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR COMMERCE AND CONNEXION WITH THE BIR-MAN EMPIRE.

" BRITISH India is more deeply concerned in her commerce and connexion with that part of the Birman empire called Pegue, than many perfons, in other respects intimately versed in the affairs of India, feem to be This interest points to three distinct objects; first, to secure from that quarter regular supplies of timber for thip-building, without which the British marine of India could exist but on a very contracted scale; secondly, to introduce into that country as much of our manufactures as its confumption may require, and to endeavour to find a mart in the fouth-west dominions of China, by means of the great river of Ava; thirdly, to guard with vigilance against every encroachment or advance, which may be made by foreign nations to divert the trade into other channels, and obtain a permanent fettlement in a country fo contiguous to the capital of our possessions. This last consideration supersedes all others in the magnitude of the confequences that might ultimately refult

"It is impossible to impress my reader by any stronger proof with the vast importance of the Pegue trade than briefly to state, that a durable vessel of burden cannot be built in the river of Bengal, except by the aid

of teak plank, which is procurable from Pegue alone; and that if the timber trade with that country should, by any act of power, be wrefted from us; if it should be lost by misfortune. or forfeited through misconduct, the marine of Calcutta, which of fate years has proved a fource of unexampled prosperity to our principal settlement, effentially benefited the parent country, and given honourable affluence to individuals, must be reduced nearly to annihilation, without the possibility of our being able to find any adequate fubflitute for the material of which we should be deprived. Within he last fix years, some of the finest merchant. fhips ever feen in the river Thames. have arrived from Calcutta +, where they were built of teak timber; and, after delivering valuable cargoes in London, were usually employed in the fervice of the state: nor would the destruction of the Pegue trade be confined folely, in its effects, to Bengal: the other fettlements would fenfibly fhare in the lofs. Madras is supplied from Rangoon, with timber for all the common purposes of domestic use; and even Bombay, although the coast of Malabar is its principal storehouse, finds it worth while annually to import a large quantity of planks from Pegue.

" But whilft it is advantageous to us to promote the exportation of timber from the maritime towns of Pegue, it is as manifeftly our interest to discourage the building of ships in the Rangoon river, where the construction is facilitated by local advantages, equal to those of any port in the world, and superior to most. The progress made in this art by the Birmans has of late years been rapid, and increases in proportion as foreigners can place confidence in the Birman government. When merchants find that they can build with fecurity in the Rangoon river for one third lefs cost than in the Ganges, and for nearly half of what they can at Bombay, few will hesitate in their choice of a place. It is faid, that the thips of Pegue are not fo firmly constructed as those built in our ports, and in general this affer-

* " Ships have been conftructed of faul wood, and of other indigenous time ber of Bengal, but on trial they were not found to be ferviceable."

Vol. IV .- No. XXXV.

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^{† &}quot;The Cuvera and the Gabriel, built at Calcutta of Pegue timber, are now in the river, and exhibit no contemptible specimens of the naval architecture of India. The port of Calcutta can furnish 40,000 tons of shipping."

tion is true; but the defect does not arise from the want of materials, but because the owners were speculative adventurers, without sufficient funds to defray the charges of labour and of iron, in which material Pegue ships have, by fatal experience, been found deficient. The shipwrights, however, are as expert as any workmen of the East, and their models, which are all from France, are excellent; the detriment, therefore, that arifes to us from the construction of ships at Rangoon, is not less evident than the benefit that we derive from importing the unmanufactured material. The Birmans, fagaciously knowing their own interest, fet us an example of policy, by remitting all duty on cordage, canvafs, and wrought iron, provided these articles are, bona side, brought for the equipment of a new veffel; the port charges also are not exacted from a new thip, on leaving the river to proceed on her first voyage. A conduct on their part fo wife, fuggefts to us the expediency of adopting some measures for our own interest; an alien duty, or a modified disqualification, would probably, like the acts of parliament in aid of British navigation, prove the most effectual remedy. Trade cannot be prosecuted in the Indian feas to any extent, except with British ports; many objections, it is true, may be made to fuch a proposition, but the good resulting to us would be immediate and certain, whilft the ill confequences, if any there be, are equivocal and remote.

" But if we are called upon by our interest in a commercial point of view. to check the growth of ship-building at Rangoon, how much more important is the subject when seen in a political light? It is a fact which appears to merit fome confideration, and is, perhaps, not generally adverted to, that in a very few years, and at a small comparative expense, a formidable navy may rife on the banks of the Irrawaddy, from the forests of Pegue. It is probably not known, that artificers are educating by our enemies for that express purpose, whilst we encourage their progress in the science, by enabling them to derive benefit, and acquire experience at the fame time. National fecurity, therefore, as well as

mercantile advantage, strongly urge a vigilant attention to a quarter, whence the means of injury to ourselves may so abundantly be drawn." P. 456.

XXXVIII. The Annual Anthology +. Vol. II. 1800. Sm. 8vo. pp. 299. 6s. Bristol printed; Longman and Rees, London.

CONTENTS.

ST. Juan Gualberto-Lucretia, & Monodrama-Lewti, or the Circaffian Love-Chant-The Child of Sorrow's Tale-Cool Reflections during a Midfummer Walk-To a Young Lady, on her first Appearance after a dangerous Illness-The Battle of Blenheim, by Robert Southey-To Recovery-Lines written in Devonshire-Ode to Silence, alias Unanimity-The Gallinipper-On viewing the Monastery lately erected at Lulworth, by Joseph Hucks-Gooseberry-Pie, a Pindaric Ode-The Huron's Address to the Dead-Recantation, illustrated in the Story of the Mad Ox, by S. T. Coleridge-Lines to Sarah—The Mad Woman—Lines written in the Album at Elbingerode, in the Hartz Forest-Song, addressed to a Lady known from Infancy-A Christmas Carol-The Old Chikkafah to his Grandson-To a Friend History-Gorthmund; a Tale, in the Manner of Offian, by William Cafe, Jun .- St. Romuald - To Lydia -To a Friend, who had declared his Intention of writing no more Poetry—The King of the Crocodiles -On a dull Fellow being elected to a College Fellowship-Vezins and Regnier-Snuff-To Anna-Eclogue-The Wedding-The Poet perplext-The Cofmetic-An Evening Walk at Cromer, by Mrs. Opie To a Bee-To a Friend expressing a Wish to travel-Ode to Mr. Packwood-This Lime-tree Bower my Prison: a Poem addressed to Charles Lamb, of the India House-

* "The French have long maintained an agent at Rangoon, and are thoroughly acquainted with the advantages which the country of Pegue offers."

1 "See extracts from the first volume in Monthly Epitome, vol. iii. p. 347."

Sonnets

William Cafe, Jun .- To a Friend, with a Volume of MS. Poems, by William Cafe, Jun.—To W. L. Efq. while he fung a Song to Purcell's Music-To the River Emont, Cumberland, by Charles Lloyd-To Loch Lomond, by Charles Lloyd-To a Water Nymph, by the late Robert Lovell-On leaving a favourite Refidence-On the fame Subject-Jafper, by Mrs. Robinson-The British Stripling's War Song-The Fair Democrate-The Old Bachelor, after the Manner of Spenfer-Song-Owen's Grave, by William Cafe, Jun .- The Death of Wallace, by Robert Southey -- Something Childish, but very Natural; written in Germany-Home Sick, written in Germany-To a Flower, by Joseph Hucks-To his Veil-To a Brother, who had been afflicted with a long Sickness, by Charles Lloyd-The Show, an English Eclogue, in hexameters-Song-Ode to Georgiana, Dutchess of Devonshire-To the Nightingale, by George Dyer— Omar at the Tomb of Azza, by George Goodwin-Markoff, a Siberian Eclogue, by Joseph Cottle-A Winter Sketch, by William Cafe, Jun .- Fire, Famine. and Slaughter, A War Eclogue-To a Young Man attached to the Sports of the Field, by Charles Lloyd-The Raven-On leaving Briftol Wells, by the Rev. C. H. Sherive—An Elegy written in a London Church-yard, Parody-The Haunted Beach, by Mrs. Robinfon—God's Judgment on a Bishop— Ode to a Pig, while his Nofe was being bored-Epigrams-Dramatic Fragment—Oxford, Ode—Fragments, by George Goodwin-Democritus Junior, or the Laughling Philosopher, by George Dyer-Defigned for a Tablet over the Grave of my little Boy, by Edmund Everard -Lines on the Portrait of a Lady-Written at Tenbury, Worcestershire, on disturbing a Hedge-Sparrow from her Nest, by Edmund Everard-To an unfortunate Woman-Lines, descriptive of Feelings produced by a

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Sonnets-Written at Matlock-By Vifit, &c .- Song of the Araucans during a Thunder Storm.

EXTRACTS. THE GALLINIPPER.

" A HUNTING party once there met (A strange and heterogeneous set,) So mix'd a group was never feen before:

The day was hot, they made good cheer.

And fhould my reader ask me where, I'll fay on the Musquito shore.

"The dinner o'er, the wines abound, And many a bottle quick went round, And many a merry tale was told: At length the subject graver grown, And taking quite a different tone, On ancient metaphylics roll'd.

" A learned traveller took the lead, A doctor who had fill'd his head With maxims most heroic; He fwore that what the world call'd pain

Was but a phantom of the brain, And never yet was felt by stoic.

" And added, I am ready, fince My arguments will not convince, An hour in yonder swamp to lie; Stript naked there I'll bear the sting Of every infect you can bring, Both those that crawl, and those that

fly.

" Each one was anxious when he heard This speech, to take him at his word; And 'mongst them all it made a buffle:

And now a rump and dozen is the bet Which he must forfeit to this merry

Should he but speak or move a muscle.

"Flat on his face the naked doctor lies, And on the fwampy ground his patience tries,

Of which our stoic would so often boaft:

Mufquitos, ants, and gnats, begin With fire-flies to affail his fkin, Of gallinippers too a monstrous host.

" Thefe gallinippers are a noble breed Sent down on earth to buz and feed, B b 2

wings of lace:

Who toil not for themselves, or earn their food,

But fuck the hungry peafant's blood, 'Mongst tiny gnats a giant race.

"In vain they fting and bite and buz; Our hero stood it like the man of Uz, And like the man of Uz had held it out;

Had there not 'mongst them been a wicked wight,

To put his school philosophy to flight, And all his high-flown fancies to the rout.

"The wag who this way hop'd to

The doctor of his rump and dozen, Snatch'd from a neighbouring forge a red-hot nail,

And plac'd it where it chanc'd to reach

A nerve that pass'd along his naked breech;

And now his patience could no more avail.

"Touch'd to the quick in his most tender part,

Nor longer able to endure the fmart, Behold him, active as a high-rope fkipper

Make from his marshy bed a monffrous jump,

And roar 'I've loft my dozen and my rump!

· Curse on the fangs of that last gallinipper'!" P. 46.

ST. ROMUALD.

"The virtues of this Saint, as mentioned in the poem, may be found particularized in his life. The honour intended him by the Spaniards is mentioned by Andrews, History of England, vol. i.

"ONE day, it matters not to know How many hundred years ago,

A Spaniard flopt at a posada door: The landlord came to welcome him and chat

Of this and that, For he had feen the traveller there before.

" Does holy Romuald dwell Still in his cell?

With monstrous paunches, and with The traveller ask'd, or is the old man dead?

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No, he has left his loving flock, and

So good a Christian never more shall

The landlord answer'd, and he shook his head.

" Ah, Sir! we knew his worth, If ever there did live a faint on earth!

Why, Sir, he always us'd to wear a

For thirty days, all feafons, day and night:

Good man, he knew it was not right For dust and ashes to fall out with dirt, And then he only hung it out in the

rain, And put it on again.

"There us'd to be rare work

With him and the Devil there in yonder cell,

For Satan us'd to maul him like a Turk.

There they would fometimes fight All through a winter's night, From fun-fet until morn,

He with a cross, the Devil with his horn,

The Devil spitting fire with might and main,

Enough to make St. Michael half afraid,

He fplashing holy water till he made His red hide hifs again,

And the hot vapour fill'd the little

This was fo common that his face became

All black and yellow with the brimstone flame,

And then he finelt-Oh Lord! how he did fmell!

"Then, Sir, to fee how he would mortify

The flesh! if any one had dainty fare.

Good man! he would come there, And look at all the delicate things, and

O belly! belly!

You would be gormandizing now I know

But it shall not be fo,

Home to your bread and water-home, I tell yel

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" But, quoth the traveller, wherefore did he leave

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A flock that knew his faintly worth fo well?

Why, faid the landlord, Sir, it fo befell

He heard unluckily of our intent
To do him a good honour, and you
know

He was not covetous of fame below, And so by stealth one night away he went.

"What was this honour, then? the traveller cried;

Why, Sir, the hoft replied,

We thought, perhaps, that he might one day leave us, And then should strangers have

The good man's grave,
A lofs like that would naturally

grieve us:
For he'll be made a faint of to be

fure,

Therefore we thought it prudent to fecure

His relics while we might,

And so we meant to strangle him one night." P. 97.

THE POET PERPLEXT.

"BRAIN! you must work! begin, or we shall lose

The day, while yet we only think upon it.

The hours run on, and yet you will not choose

The fubject-come-ode, elegy, or fonnet.

You must contribute, brain! in this hard time;

Taxes are high, food dear, and you must rhyme.

"'T were well if when I rubb'd my itchless head,

The fingers, with benignant stimulation,

Could through the medullary substance spread

The motions of poetic infpiration:
But fcratch, or knock, or fhake my
head about,

The motions may go in, but nought comes out.

"The natural head, confider good my brain,

To the head politic bears fome allufion;

The limbs and body must support your reign,

And all, when you do wrong, is in confusion.

But caput mine, in truth I can't fup-

A head as lazy as if born at court.

"The verse goes on, and we shall have, my friend,

A poem ere the subject we determine. But every thing should have some useful end.

That fingle line itself is worth a fermon!

The moral point as obvious is as good; So, gentle brain! I thank you, and conclude." P. 127.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE ESSAY.

"IF terror and pity are the throbbing pulses of Christian oratory as well as of the drama, the powers of the former are certainly, in this country, feeble and unimpressive. Many fplendid exceptions may be adduced, but I allude to the desiciency of general excellence: under that consideration, the form of Sacred Eloquence appears sickly and inactive, the pulse at her heart beats languidly, no expression slashes from her eye, and her pale lip attests that no feraph has touched it with the live coal from off the altar.

"No other excellence can fupply the want of animation. 'What have 'the French Revolutionifts,' fays Mr. Burke, 'to fupply their innumerable 'defects, and to make them terrible 'to the firmest minds? One thing only! But that one thing is worth a 'thousand—they have energy.'

"An audience may be affimilated to a tree, that is put into motion by the paffing gale: how often the voice of a preacher paffes over this tree, like a languid zephyr, without agitating a fingle leaf!" P. i.

"It is said, that, when Shakespeare was born, Nature destroyed the mould in which his great mind was formed. Without losing sight of those splendid exceptions to which I before alluded, I cannot help wishing that some superior genius would break the general mould in which religious discourses are cast. To borrow an illustration from sculpture, an English sermon

may

may be faid to be compared to the statue of a correct but unimpassioned artist: the form displays an apt proportion of parts; but no foul warms, awakens, inspirits the dead marble. The subject of an English sermon is often admirably well conducted, and ingeniously expanded; the formation is accurate, but fomething is still wanting: I cannot better elucidate my meaning, than by these lines from Dryden:

Still the warm fun its cheering power withheld.

Nor added colours to the world reweal'd.

" I beg I may not be understood, that I am recommending to the preacher to effuse a gaudy colouring over his composition. The celestial form of religion does not require the flowing robe of oftentation, nor is it to be viewed as through a prism. Christian audience is not to be amused with the tricks of oratory, nor is the spiritual food which the audience demands at the hands of their pastors to be supplied with the flowers of rhetoric. The paftors, fays Bishop Taylor (in his fermon on the Duty of Minifters) ' are not to feed the people with gay tulips and useless daffodils, but with the bread of life, and medicinal * plants, fpringing from the margin of " the fountain of falvation."

" I shall referve for another opportanity fome observations on the fermons that have appeared in the courfe of the last ten years; in which I have attempted to show, that, however many of them may be effeemed beautiful moral esfays, they are devoid of that evangelic and pastoral unction, which the pulpit demands: that they are not calculated to reach the affections, nor, in correspondence with the object in view, either to disturb, terrify, soften, encourage, or confole. They contain no communicative fentibility, and have nothing that is glowing, feraphic, or incentive. If any authority were requifice to corroborate my opinion on this subject, I find the sentiments of Bishop Warburton in perfect confonance with mine: in his Directions for the Study of Theology, he has these words: A pathetic address to the passions and affections of penitent hearers, perhaps the most operative of all the various species of instruction, is that in which the English pulpit is most defective." P. v.

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"The many texts which will prefent themselves to the biblical student as candidates for his choice, should be previously examined before he makes his felection. He should foar on the wings of contemplation, and hover over the facred ground, till, discover, ing a text that forcibly attracts him, he should seize it, as the descending eagle rushes on his prey.

" The subject of the discourse," fays Dr. Langhorn, 'may fometimes preach more effectually than the dif. course itself: arising either from the energy and brevity of the expression, or from adapting it with an obvious propriety to fome temporary occa-· fion. When the fate of Aaron's two fons was pronounced, the fa-"cred writer gives us this short and friking description: Aaron held his peace. What expression! Would not this be a most proper text for the · fubject of religious refignation? And would not the text itself plead more emphatically than the most laboured fermon * ?'

"If history (as it has been afferted) is philosophy realized, historical preach. ing is truth exemplified. What are words to things? What was the harangue of Anthony to his producing the body of Cæfar? Now a ftory realizes a discourse, and brings, as it were, the body of Cæfar to our view."

P. xiii.

" I beg leave, before I conclude this Essay, to advert to the small encouragement that is given to facred eloquence. The many charitable inffitutions in this town, whose turrets pierce the skies, and, as Mr. Burke observes, ' like so many electrical conductors avert the wrath of Heaven, do honour to general benevolence. These charitable institutions, however, hold out no allurement to clerical talents. The trifling stipend offered to the morning or evening preacher is not fufficiently attractive to a young man of genius to make him forego other literary purfuits, to devote himfelf entirely to this hallowed art, without which excellence is not to be attained, and, like the plighted virgin, leave behind all other endearing connexions to adhere to the object of her choice. The governors of the charitable institutions may fay, they offer

" See a little tract, entitled, Letters on the Eloquence of the Pulpit."

to the preacher as much as they can deduct from their other various demands: to this supposed affertion of the governors, if I am not competent to reply, I may be allowed to observe, that if young men of distinguished abilities were incited by a more liberal remuneration, the audience would be more numerous, more fplendid, and the collection more productive. have all heard of the furprifing and repeated collections made in a neighboaring island by the means of facred eloquence. Genius shrinks (like the fensitive plant) uninvited by patronage, unexcited, unrewarded,

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'Nor trusts its blossoms to the churlish

"As the embosomed feed fprings not from the earth unless warm funs and genial showers call it forth, so the parturient mind yields not the expected produce unless equal justice

Scatters with a free, though frugal hand,

'Light golden show'rs of plenty o'er the land,'

" Encouragement is the test of genius; it acts upon it as provocation operates upon an irritable mind. Genius is fostered at the bar, and there we behold it triumphant. In musical

composition we behold the reverse: although the light golden showers are not wanting to the genial climate of the stage, none of our musical dramas difcover any original merit: the barren, uninventive compiler only does the honours of foreign compofers; I am therefore compelled to think, that vocal and infirumental compositions are repugnant to English genius. But of the more important and more exalted art whose cause I am now plead. ing, I entertain a very different fentiment. From many indications that appear on the furface, I indulge the pleafing idea, that the quarry contains an invaluable treasure. The new Royal Institute proclaims the liberality of modern patronage: why might not a fund be established for the purpose of awakening an emulative disposition in the rifing race of preachers, and of calling forth dormant and inactive capacities? Several persons of the most enlightened discernment, with whom I have converfed upon this subject, concur with me in thinking, that an endowment of the nature I am fuggesting, would be productive of the most falutary and early effects: facred eloquence would affirme the honours to which she would then be entitled, and take the lead in the procession of talents." P. xxxvi.

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